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BOSTON CELTICS PRIDE

Volume 1, Issue 16
June 9, 1986



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YOU DON'T KNOW
ME, BUT...

JAN VOLK

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★ ★ ★ CELTICS GET NO. 2 PICK IN LOTTERY ★ ★ ★

THE ARENA

Rick Weitzman Called It!

Two weeks earlier, Scout Rick Weitzman had been sitting at court-side, discussing possible Celtics draft selections. With the lottery procedure scheduled for May 11, Weitzman had reason to feel optimistic; the Celtics' trade of guard Gerald Henderson to the Seattle Super-Sonics had landed Boston in the invaluable grab-bag, the NBA Lottery, which is set up to determine the order of the opening seven choices in the June 17th collegiate draft.

Weitzman was asked who would represent the Celtics at the event, held in the Grand Hyatt-Regency in New York City.

"Red," the scout answered definitively. "And I can guarantee you right now. He'll come back with one of the top three."

Two random choices were made. The first, held earlier in the morning, decided in what order the teams would choose the logos out of the bin. Auerbach finished 6th here, but he was happy. Turning to Al Attles, representing the Warriors, he said, "That's good. That means we'll win the next round."

The gala day unfolded quickly (It was televised by CBS). Red chose the lot, as did the representatives of the other teams (including Dallas, New York, Indiana, Phoenix, Golden State, and Philadelphia). When Auerbach picked the lot from the bin, he stumbled, and people laughed. But seemingly (again), it was a mystical contrivance of forces. Red (again) would have the last laugh.

After it was over, after chance had been played out and Boston was number two in the entire draft, Red talked about the day with reporters in Boston.

"I treated the afternoon like a game, in a way. No big pre-event meal, ect. I didn't pray or anything like that. These type of things you don't

pray for."

"But it did make me think. A toss of the coin is worth \$1 million sometimes \$10 million. It was worth at least that much when we won the coin toss for Parish (in 1979-80). And it was worth ten million when Phoenix lost in 1969. They got Neal Walk, and Milwaukee got Abdul-Jabbar.

"I was happy when Dallas placed seventh. Since Cleveland had the right to buy a choice after Dallas, we could finish no lower than sixth. Then I kept hoping--Fifth? fourth? third?..then I knew we had hit big. I was glad to finish higher than New York, it's always been an ambition of mine to kick New York's tail. And I was glad for Al Attles--he's a super nice guy.

"It's like what they say: It's better to be lucky than to be good."

A post-script: as Auerbach walked into the Celtics practice that day, Larry Bird pulled him aside. Alluding to the victory of Philadelphia in the lottery for the first choice in the whole draft, Bird teased Auerbach, "Hey Red, Philly kicked your _____ again!"

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Cover...

Celtics General Manager Jan Volk is not very well known to the basketball public however he actually is one of the most experienced and respected administrators in all of professional sports.

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Ask Red Auerbach

have employed only male ballpersons, and only those who are in their junior or senior years in high school. We have good reasons for this. First of all, a good deal of the ballboy's time is spent in the locker rooms, where the players dress and all the ice, towels and other equipment are kept. Although we do allow female members of the media into the locker rooms out of necessity, we have decided that it's better for us to employ males in that role to avoid any embarrassment. We've gone with older kids simply because they're bigger and therefore more capable of handling some of the heavier jobs that they're needed for; older kids are also more responsible and dependable. As far as their specific chores, it is generally related to equipment: getting balls, towels, ice, etc. on and off the floor, getting liquid to players during timeouts, wiping wet spots off the floor to prevent players from slipping, and performing any other chores that our equipment manager and trainer require.

QUESTION: Who decides when a Celtics player's number is retired and hung from the rafters? Also, how long is it after a player retires that he becomes eligible for this?

Susan Day
Greenfield, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: I decide. Seriously, there are no set rules or time frame regarding retiring numbers. It's just up to our management to handle each situation as it arises.

QUESTION: Exactly how did the Celtics draft Larry Bird out of college? Was it by the flip of a coin?

Tony Reis
Taunton, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: Because he had originally gone to the University of Indiana, and had transferred to Indiana State after dropping out of school for a year, Larry was in a position where his class was graduating while he was still a junior. He was eligible for the draft after his junior year, but elected to stay in school for his senior year. At that point in time, league rules permitted players in that situation to be drafted even though they had remaining eligibility. We drafted Larry Bird and signed him after his graduation but before the following draft. In response to that signing, incidentally, the league changed the rules regarding the draft.

EDITORS NOTE: "Ask Red Auerbach" is a regular feature of Celtics Pride. If you have a question for Red, please send it to Celtics Pride, 49 Locust Avenue, New Canaan, Connecticut 06840. Red will answer as many as possible in each issue.

QUESTION: Are women allowed in the NBA? I've heard there may be a woman joining next year. Is there any truth to that?

Melissa Varney
Scarborough, Maine

RED'S ANSWER: There is no rule that I'm aware of prohibiting women from playing the NBA. The restrictions are really practical rather than legal. Let's face it -- NBA players are among the best athletes in the world, and without offending any of our women readers out there, it is clear that even the best women would have a difficult time competing against the best male athletes, particularly in a sport in which size and speed are at such a premium. I'm not sure who you've heard will be joining the NBA next year, but I suppose you might be thinking of Cheryl Miller, USC's great player. I have my doubts that even Cheryl, who can dunk and is one of the greatest female basketball players ever, would have any shot at all in the NBA. You may recall that several years ago, Ann Meyers, the sister of Dave Meyers (who was playing for the Bucks) was drafted and tried out for an NBA team. She was not able to match up against the men and quit.

QUESTION: Last month, in an elementary school game which I witnessed, a player hauled in a defensive rebound and turned to throw a base-ball pass to start a fast break. He fired high and long, but the ball landed near the far foul line and bounced up to swish through the hoop. Would this have counted as a three-pointer in the NBA?

Allen T. Goguen
Gardner, Mass.

RED'S ANSWER: Sure. All that matters, as far as I know, is where the shot was taken from. It doesn't matter where the ball landed before going through the basket, as long as it was inbounds and didn't touch anyone. I would say it was a three-point shot based on where the shot was taken from.

QUESTION: Can you please tell me specifically what a ball person does? Also, does it have to be a boy? Can you live out of state? Can you take the job for just one game?

Kim Santucci
Scarborough, Maine

RED'S ANSWER: For the past several years, we

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Celtics Lucky Leprechaun Does It Again! Boston gets Number Two Choice in Draft.



Red Auerbach: Hero!

The NBA's draft lottery was supposed to be the day when the league's sick, tired, poor and hungry franchises took the first step toward getting into the mainstream of society. But in the end, two of the stronger units were befooled up.

The Philadelphia 76ers, who gained the Clippers first-round selection by virtue of a trade for Joe Bryant some years back (think they wouldn't make that one again?), wound up winning the lottery and will thus have the first overall choice in the June draft.

Ironically enough, the Celtics, Philly's bitter Atlantic Division rival, will have the second choice.

How did the team with the league's best record wind up in the lottery? Simple. It was another master stroke by Red Auerbach. Two years ago, Gerald Henderson, a popular and effective guard, was traded to the Seattle SuperSonics for their 1986 first-round pick. The Sonics were willing to give up their number one, because they figured they'd have a strong team by the time '86 rolled around.

Wrong. The Sonics have done some major-league sliding over the past couple of seasons, and had one of the NBA's worst records in 1985-86.

To be sure, this is a trade Auerbach would repeat. "Gerald Henderson was a fine player," Auerbach says. "But there are a lot of fine 6-2 guards. You gotta think ahead in this business."

There were a couple of reasons Auerbach was willing to part with Henderson. First, he figured Danny Ainge would eventually come into his own and become a productive player, which he has. Auerbach also knew Rick Carlisle would be of some use to the C's.

"I traded Henderson because Ainge needed more playing time," Auerbach said. "I had to find a way to get more minutes and help ourselves."

It wasn't the first time that Auerbach foresight paid off. In 1978, he drafted Larry Bird as an undergraduate eligible, knowing full well that Bird had no intention of leaving Indiana State. But a year later, Bird was ready for delivery to the Boston Garden. Two decades before that, Auerbach finagled his way into getting Bill Russell, despite Russell not being available until midseason. Auerbach traded Ed MacAuley and Cliff Hagan to the St. Louis Hawks for the Hawks' top pick, which was the third pick in the draft.

"The Rochester Royals were picking number one and had told me they were going to take Sihugo Green (a guard from Duquesne)," Auerbach recalls. I could have been deceived. They could have taken him (Russell) but they didn't. He was worth waiting for."

Now just what will Auerbach and the Celtics do with this pick?

Looking through their roster, the Celtics are so strong all over that they could go for that proverbial best overall player available in the draft. However, it would probably make sense to take someone big, since those types are precious. Auerbach covets North Carolina center Brad Daugherty, as does every one else in the league.

"I like the kid," Auerbach says. "If he's there, we'd probably take him."

If not, there are plenty of options, such as Williams Bedford (Memphis State), Chris Washburn (North Carolina State) and Len Bias (Maryland).

"The player we select isn't going to be playing much anyway," Auerbach says. "He isn't going to beat out Bird, McHale, Parish or Walton and he's not going to replace Dennis Johnson or Danny Ainge. The kid we get is going to have to pay his dues, learn his trade and help us two years from now."

"Picking number one or two doesn't make any difference. This gives us some options. I'm more than satisfied."

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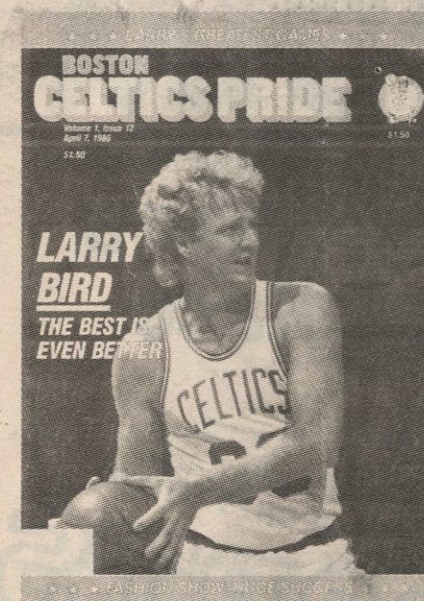
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Innerview

Gil Santos — Play-by-Play Man

One of the most respected radio or television journalists in New England is Gil Santos, who is play-by-play man for Celtics TV games on WLVI-56.

Santos has quite a background in the media. After graduating from the New England Broadcast School in 1959, he worked in the New Bedford area for the next several years. Santos got his first big break in 1966 when he latched on with WBZ radio as a part-time broadcaster, doing Patriots and Boston College football games. He later became the Pats' full-time announcer and at the same time, was broadcasting Penn State football games on its radio network.

Santos joined WBZ as a full-time announcer in 1971, and still works at the station. He has also done broadcasts for the New England Tea Men soccer team, Providence College basketball and national football telecasts for CBS and ABC-TV. He helped out with ABC's coverage of the 1984 Olympics.

Santos has been named Massachusetts Sportscaster of the Year twice and received a New England Emmy award as the best play-by-play announcer and received UPI's best New England Sportscaster award in 1982. Celtics Pride chatted with Santos recently...

CELTICS PRIDE: You travel a lot with the team. How do you handle that?

SANTOS: It does get a little difficult, especially this season, because we did a lot of road games. You do get tired toward the end of the season. Each game is always a challenge to broadcast well. You can get tired physically, but I never get tired of doing the games.

CELTICS PRIDE: What's it like broadcasting Celtics games?

SANTOS: It's great. You know they will always be around (a chance of winning) the game. There are a nice bunch of guys on the team -- every one of them is pleasant and easy to deal with. They always expect to win, I always expect them to win. I feel the same way as the players do.

CELTICS PRIDE: Do you want to see the Celtics win?

SANTOS: Sure I'm rooting for the Celtics. But that doesn't mean I'm blind to good plays for the other team. I'm also not blind to when the Celtics play poorly. I don't want anyone to doubt it.

Then again, I'm doing games on TV, so people can see it when the Celtics are playing badly. If they were playing poorly and you didn't say it,



Nobody does it better

you wouldn't be doing your job of reporting.

CELTICS PRIDE: Is it easier to do games for a team that wins almost all the time than for a loser?

SANTOS: It's a lot easier. I did Patriots games for 14 years and only in four of those 14 years did they have a better than .500 record. It's not easy to do games for teams that don't win. You get to know these guys and you like 'em, so you want them to do well as friends. It's disappointing when they don't win, but you don't want that to have an impact on your job. It's a lot easier when you're doing play-by-play for the best team in basketball than the worst.



Gil never tires of the games.

posed to college. Professional basketball players have the roughest sport to play. Professional football players play 20 games, basketball players play 100 games on a hard-wood floor with no pads and banging each other. It's a demanding physical sport -- they have the toughest sport to play.

Another thing about basketball players is there's always tremendous interest in how players and other teams around the league are doing.

CELTICS PRIDE: The Celtics used to play second-fiddle to the Bruins in Boston. Now that's no longer the case. Why?

SANTOS: I think the thing that turned it around for the Celtics was Larry Bird. I think he's the best basketball player of all time. People enjoy watching him play. He's become a cult figure for the people who watch him play.

CELTICS PRIDE: Is there any way you'd like to summarize your career?

SANTOS: I'm really lucky. I've got a great job. I like broadcasting and it's fun. You get to go to games and get great seats and travel around the country. I get to see games and have a great time. You couldn't ask for anything more than that.

CELTICS PRIDE: Are basketball players interesting to deal with?

SANTOS: Basketball players are very interesting, mainly because, if nothing else, they have been ex-

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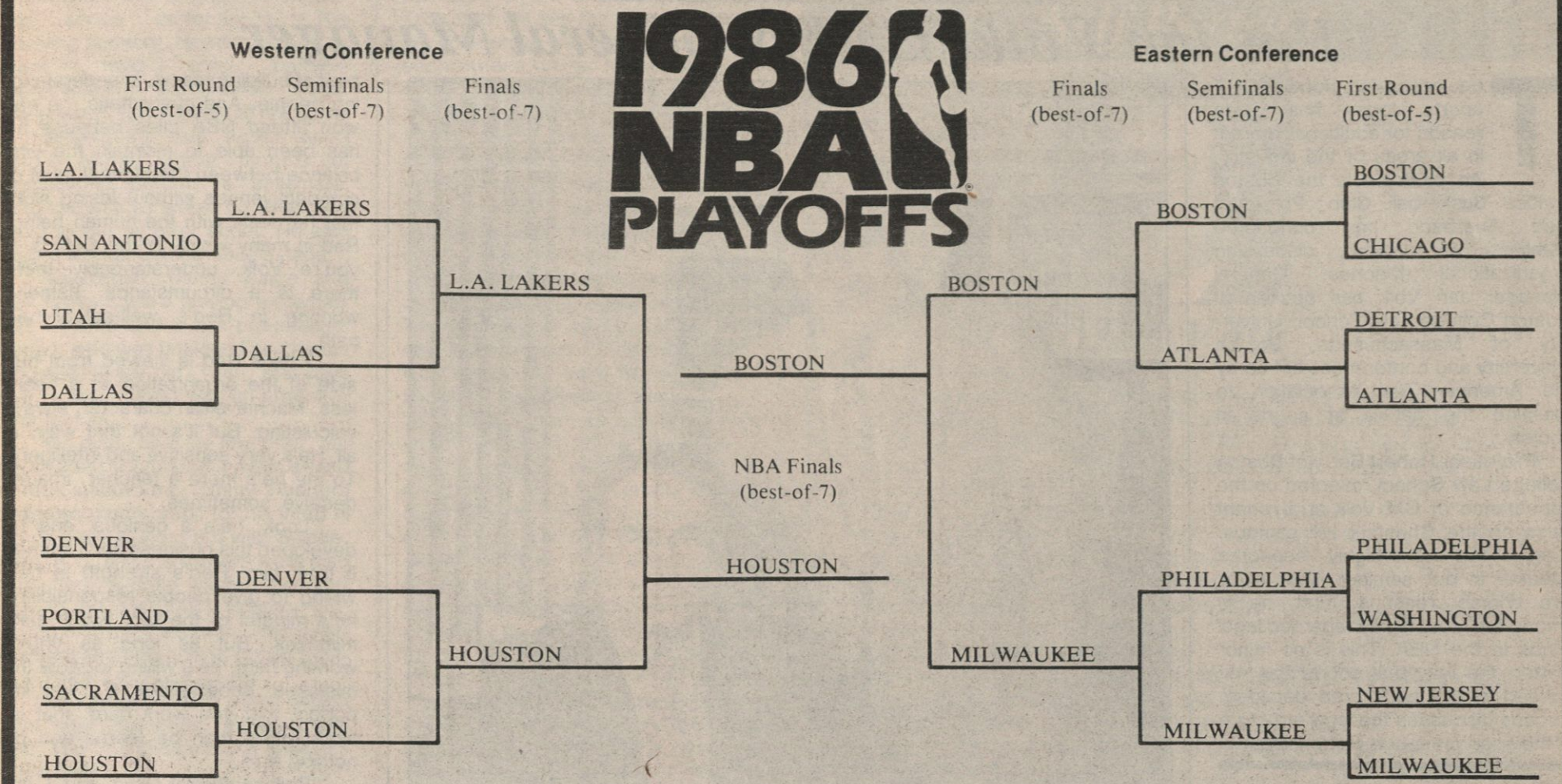
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Do You Know Me?

I'm Jan Volk, Celtics General Manager

The increasing popularity of sports today has given reason for additional interest in all areas of the industry.

An example is the Boston Celtics Basketball Club. President Red Auerbach has conducted seminars at Harvard, discussing organizational theories. General Manager Jan Volk has spoken at Boston College Law School, University of Massachusetts, Boston University and conferences set up by the American Bar Association to examine the nature of sports in society.

Professor Robert Berry of Boston College Law School reflected on the appearance of GM Volk at a recent class on the Chestnut Hill campus. "Jan is the most highly respected speaker in our seminar. This is for two primary reasons. First, he is among the most highly regarded legal minds in the NBA. This is no minor matter, the way that sports has expanded in the past three decades. Nobody discusses the legal structure of the sport more comprehensively."

"Our styles are different. I don't pretend to be Red."

Jan Volk



Jan and Red work very well together.

professionally with the Celtics. I care; I wanted to become involved in all aspects of the business.

"And that is true of all of us here. It's an asset of our team, the front office. All of us have had hands-on experience in most departments of the game."

Volk speaks from an office overlooking the Expressway in Boston. The carpet is green, and the room is designed with the team's history. A photo of President Reagan where he honored the team after the '84 title. A caricature of the GM in a background featuring the Celtics. The '84 championship trophy, a baseball cap with the 1985 NBA Playoff insignia.

But there are more personal touches, embellishments which help to further explain the GM and the man. There is a Toronto Blue Jays baseball cap. There is a Los Angeles Lakers jacket; but there is a flag commemorating the multitude of Celtics titles. Also there are photos of his wife Lissa, his daughter Shari (9) and son Matthew (5). There is a depiction of a Nikon camera in blue and scarlet. A black and white picture of Volk in a photo vest, draped in photography equipment as he shot a

best at building teams, at understanding people. And charismatic; he has won fifteen NBA titles because he has been able to maintain the vital balance between the highest level of competitiveness without losing sight that he deals with the human being. Red in many ways, is the Celtics. If you're Volk, understandably then, there is a circumstance, namely, working in Red's well-established path.

"I think Red is viewed from outside of the organization as a heartless, Machievellian character, always calculating. But it's not that way, at all. He's very sensitive and intelligent. To me he's more a teacher. Images deceive, sometimes.

"Look, he's a genius, and he developed this business and I learned it from him. Red's strength is he's willing to give people responsibility; he's mindful of the fact you'll make mistakes. But as long as you're working hard, he's willing to allow the mistakes, occasionally. It's just important that you work hard; that is, work rather than be fearful and do nothing at all.

"Philosophically, Red and I are very similar. Our styles are different. I don't pretend to be Red...but, then, his strength has always been to place people in the right positions in the organization. I don't see my situation...working in Red's shadow, as any different than when Tommy Heinsohn or K.C. (Jones) coached under Red. We work for the Celtics, we perform our roles, and we hopefully are intelligent enough to draw upon the knowledge of the best there is."

When Auerbach significantly reduced his role in Boston in 1984 — he works out of Washington, D.C. most of the year — he named Volk General Manager, a move as logical as his naming Jones Coach in 1983. And Volk was immediately thrust into a crucial episode.

Gerald Henderson had played an important role for the Celtics in the 1984 championship, capping his

contribution with a gritty championship series performance. The following summer, Henderson, a free agent, held out, perhaps overestimating his market value, perhaps not. But Volk could not agree to Henderson's and Agent Scott Lang's terms. Three months of negotiations brought a stalemate; Lang stated they would do what they could to get an offer sheet. He also suggested the Celtics make a trade.

"Meanwhile, Danny Ainge and Rick Carlisle were playing extremely well in camp and in the pre-season. Gerald, who was unsigned and hadn't reported, finally did. Then, two days later, a team called with an attractive offer for him.

"We didn't take the first offer, but the interest suggested it made sense to look elsewhere. Jimmy Rodgers deserves much credit for his input in the deal we worked out with Seattle. (Red, K.C. and the owners were also consulted). Seattle wanted the draft pick to be the 1987 choice, but, relying on Jimmy's advice, I remained adamant and was able to obtain Seattle's 1986 1st round choice."

The choice, like a stock which pays later dividends, matured this year. The 2nd choice in the season's entire draft.

A key to Volk's success is his ability to deal with people. His days are consistently full...ranging from player meetings, media interviews,

oversight of the entire organization. The latter causes the Celtics staff to be constantly walking in and out of each other's office. No knocking on doors is usually necessary. "The key to Jan's success," states Tod Rosensweig, Director of Marketing and Communications, "is that he is very even (tempered). But he's always working, keeping at it. It's a unique blend but he's extremely successful at motivating us."

"I think his strength," adds Duane Johnson, Assistant Director of Sales, "is his ability to sign players before negotiations reach the crisis stage." Last week, the team signed Robert Parish to a multi-year agreement.

Asked about recognition, Volk concludes, "I'm not a ballplayer! I don't expect public recognition although this is a high profile job. If I don't get the credit due me, well, maybe I get credit for what others do down the line. It all evens out. I believe most people work for the sake of doing their jobs the best way possible...for pride, for their family, for the company they work for. That should be enough."

Jan Volk engages in struggles, as men do in any organization. But in the Celtics organization, he is providing strong, positive leadership, in and outside of the game. His sense of discipline ensures effectiveness and order; a sense of humor and natural humility provide perspective.

Self Portrait



Jan Volk

PLACE OF BIRTH: Davenport, Iowa

FAVORITE MUSICIAN: Johnny Mathis and Barbra Streisand

FAVORITE FILM CHARACTER: Paul Newman as Butch Cassidy

IF I COULD BE REINCARNATED, I'D BE: I'd like to come back as I am

IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR, I'D BUY: My Corvette—I don't need anything else.

FAVORITE ALL-TIME TV SHOW: Leave It To Beaver

FAVORITE CURRENT TV SHOW: Cheers and The Bob Newhart Show

FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Penguin

FAVORITE FOOD: Chinese Food, (But no cigars)

FAVORITE NBA CITY BESIDES BOSTON: New York, when we win there

FAVORITE COMEDIAN: Bill Cosby

IF I HAD TO CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION, I'D BE: No aspiration to be in any profession but the one I'm in.

FAVORITE DRINK: Virgin Mary; Cream Soda

OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: An engineer hat that I wear sailing

I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: Film

FAVORITE FILMS: Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid; The Young Lions

I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Fly an airplane



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You're Not Red!

The ascendancy of Jan Volk to the head of the Celtics organization has not been without its ambiguous and humorous moments. To wit: before Game 3 of the first round of the playoffs against the Bulls in Chicago last month, Volk was scheduled to be the on-air guest of a Chicago TV station, as arranged by Celtics Public Relations official, David Zuccaro. Zuccaro had arranged with the station to bring them the GM of the Celtics—but the TV people thought the GM was still Red. A case of mistaken identity, obviously.

As scheduled, Volk routinely checked through channels to see where he was supposed to appear. He found his way through the maze of the Chicago Stadium... but when he reached the scene, the on-air sports hosts (not apparently versed with the NBA, 1986), realized they had erred. They feared Volk wouldn't have the visibility of his esteemed predecessor, Auerbach.

Their choice to replace the Celtics GM for the interview? Dave Corzine.



1986 Draft is Talented and Deep

Decisions, decisions and more decisions will face NBA front office personnel when the draft rolls around in June.

This selection of college players, augmented by some tasty undergraduate eligibles, can best be described as deep. True, there isn't one super-duper player in the mold of a Patrick Ewing or Akeem Olajuwon, but even teams not picking in the lottery have a pretty good shot at winding up with a player who can make an immediate impact on his given team. That wasn't the case last year.

The general consensus among the NBA *cognoscenti* is either North Carolina's 6-11 center Brad Daugherty or 6-11 pivot Chris Washburn, a much-troubled North Carolina State product, will be the number-one choice of the league. The Philadelphia 76ers have the top choice, by virtue of their win in the draft lottery and a trade with the then-San Diego Clippers some years back. Don't feel too sorry for the Celtics — they've got selection number two.

Kentucky forward Kenny Walker, Maryland forward Len Bias, Miami (Ohio) forward Ron Harper, Duke guard Johnny Dawkins, Georgia Tech center John Salley and Memphis State center William Bedford are other plum picks. Some others viewed enticing are Roy Tarpley (center, Michigan), Mark Alarie (forward, Duke), Brad Sellers (center, Ohio State), Maurice Martin (guard, St. Joseph's), Dell Curry (guard, Virginia Tech) and Chuck Person (forward, Auburn).

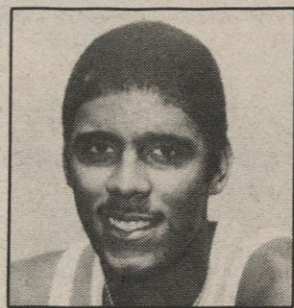
Syracuse point guard Dwayne "Pearl" Washington is perhaps the top undergraduate available in terms of notoriety, but Bedford will more than likely be taken ahead of him. John Williams (forward, LSU) has had just two years of college experience, but should go high.

What is most interesting about this year's draft is, of the several big men available, none are prospects in the mode of say, Joe Kleine, Blair Rasmussen or Jon Koncak. The Bedfords, Washburns and Salleys are all dressed up and ready to contribute.

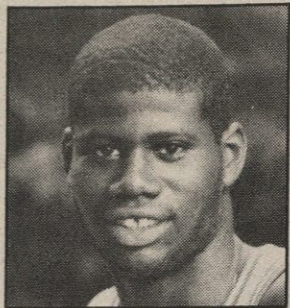
"There are two avenues to go," says Golden State Warrior consultant Pete Newell, renowned in college and pro basketball circles for his expertise, "The first avenue is big men. The second avenue is outstanding forwards."

While Daugherty is the outstanding center of the draft, the Celtics wouldn't be in bad shape if they took Washburn second, assuming Philadelphia grabbed Daugherty.

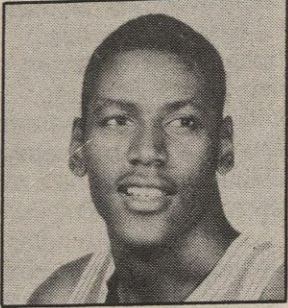
"Washburn has a ton of potential," Newell says. "He's got a lot of learning to do, but there's nothing he can't do. He can run, move, he's a good post-up player — he understand-



Daugherty



Washburn



Bedford

ds posting up."

And what about Washburn's past brush with the law and other assorted woes?

"That's no deterrent," Newell says. "We've all got warts on us, what the hell. There are no SATs in the NBA, don't forget that."

Dick Vitale, the opinionated and colorful commentator at ESPN and former coach at the University of Detroit and the Detroit Pistons, doesn't take as pristine a view of Washburn's past. He believes it might make teams shy away from him, particularly a club like the Celtics, which would rather avoid head cases.

"Washburn has all the physical skills," Vitale says. "He needs maturity and emotional growth. He's got to become a better rebounder — he has to attack the glass."

"He has so much talent and so much size that there is a tendency to overlook the past. But he's got some things on his downside — (he attended) three high schools and you have to wonder about his stability. I think he needed to stay in school another year."

On Daugherty, Vitale says, "He's a good scorer and he has good touch and great size. But he needs to play more physically. He plays too soft."

Bedford, whom Newell says will go in the lottery, seems to be a Robert Parish-type, more of a finesse pivot.

"He's Mr. Potential," Vitale says. "He's a shot blocker and has good quickness for his size and he can run the floor. If he gains some strength, he could be a real diamond."

Tarpley, Salley and Sellers are the other top centers available. It's a good possibility that none will be lottery picks, but all should go high.

"They're not as strong as Daugherty or Washburn," Newell says, "but they can shoot facing the basket. They're good — not great — rebounders and not great shot blockers."

Says Vitale: "Tarpley slipped a little (last season), but he's flexible and can play forward or center. Salley came on strong in Hawaii (in an NBA camp for college seniors). I look at him as a 10 through 12 pick. He needs more body strength."

What about forwards? Bias is clearly the cream of the crop. But

"Bias is as fine as offensive forward as you'll find coming out of any draft," Newell says. "He's a little over 6-7, but he can jump with any forward."

Says Vitale: "He's gonna be a superstar. He's got tons of ability." Like any player, Bias does have his faults.

"He's going to be a real scorer," Newell says. "He has good shooting range and is a good post-up player. He has to learn to be more intense on the defensive end. And he has to learn not to talk too much. He has a tendency to talk too much on the court. That's not a good idea in the NBA."

It wouldn't be a bad idea for a team to draft Walker, a 6-7 wunderkind.

"He's tenacious and very tough, a la Sidney Moncrief," Vitale says. "He comes to play every night and is a great skywalker. He's a great post-up player and has ability to fire to the basket."

Newell says, "Walker is awfully hard to categorize. Is he a big forward or small forward? He's very good around the basket and will score in the NBA. Small forwards are the hardest people in the NBA to defense."

Harper isn't as heralded as Walker or Bias, but NBA bird-dogs are quite familiar with him. He could very well be a lottery man.

"I like him," Vitale says. "He could be a star in the league. He's a mini version of Dr. J."

Says Newell: "He's a Milwaukee-type of player — like Moncrief or (Paul) Pressey."

Then there's Duke's Alarie, who's not a bad player in his own right.

"He might be the best technique forward in the draft," Newell said. "He has good shooting range and is good defensively. He's about as sound a player as there is in the draft. There is a knock on his foot speed."

Berry and Williams only recently decided to go the pro route. Both are sure first-rounders.

"Williams has a great body — a George McGinnis-type," Vitale says. "He should go in the top 15."

On Berry, Newell says, "He's a scorer who will score in the NBA because he can shoot quickly, has long arms and posts up very well. But

he'll have to add another dimension to his game — defense."

Person is likely to be drafted ahead of Berry.

"He's strong enough, powerful enough and he can run," Newell says. "And his shooting has three-point range. Sonny Smith (Auburn coach) says Person's the best player he's ever coached."

Dawkins is probably the finest guard who has ever worn a Duke uniform. If he's not the first guard taken in the draft, there ought to be a federal investigation.

"People go for size (Dawkins is 6-2), but I love him," Vitale says. "He can run the open court and plays bigger than his size."

Says Newell: "He's really improved in his judgement and control. He has to be a point guard (in the NBA) even though his game is two guard. You don't want your point guard scoring 24 or 25 points a night. The ideal team for him to be drafted by is Milwaukee or Boston, which don't really use point guards. He can handle most guards in the NBA."

Second among the guards is Washington, a rare bird in that he's a pure point guard.

"With the right team, he'd be a dynamite point guard," Vitale says. "He's got great court awareness. He'll be a hell of an NBA guard. I've got him nine through 12 (in the selection order)."

Says Newell: "He'll be more effective in the NBA than in college. He won't run into zones — zones put him to sleep. Zones can be dreary to some players who like to penetrate."

Believe it or not, the guard crop drops off after these two, despite the presence of Curry and Martin.

"Martin is in the top 15," Vitale says. "He plays tough defense and has good instincts."

Two more guards who received plenty of press during their college careers are Scott Skiles (Michigan State) and Mark Price (Georgia Tech). But they aren't coveted by NBA scouts.

"Price is a good back-up role player — his lack of speed hurts him," Vitale says. "He has a good work ethic and can shoot from a distance. He's quicker than people think, but his size is a question mark."

Vitale thinks Daugherty, Walker, Bias, Person, Bedford, Washburn, Harper and Curry will be the lottery picks, not in any particular order. He was then asked whom would he take if he were the Celtics general manager.

"Walker," Vitale said, "assuming Daugherty goes to the 76ers. He fits into the Celtics mold. He plays hard every night. He's not as spectacular as Bias, but his ethic is win, win, win. That's emblematic of the Celtics mold."



K.C.s Corner

seemed fatigued; in some ways, he was carrying their game along. In Game 3 of that series, we changed zoning more inside, watching Spud and aware of each of the men we were guarding individually. It required the awareness, and constant, quick movement by our big men. By winning the 3rd game (104-98), we had a commanding lead. Road games are vital to win in the playoffs—we're proud of our Boston Garden record (although I honestly do not think too much about it). But wins on the road turn series in your favor with finality.

Emotions play a role, now, but concentration and singleness of purpose count plenty, too. We have won this year by consistently playing

We Must Lift Our Play Higher

Playoffs mean intensity, excitement, and electricity. For example: Second round of the post-season, we are seemingly on our way to winning Game 2 over the Hawks. Our lead is 94-82 as the 3rd period ends. Suddenly, there is a rhubarb in front of the scorer's table. Atlanta's Coach Mike Fratello apparently is in a dispute over there, and it breaks out into fighting.

Later we would learn that the coach had argued with some fans; normally these incidents do not occur, but in the playoffs, every edge is played out, attempted. Because this incident, accompanied with an earlier fight in which Danny Ainge was ejected, changed the nature of the ballgame.

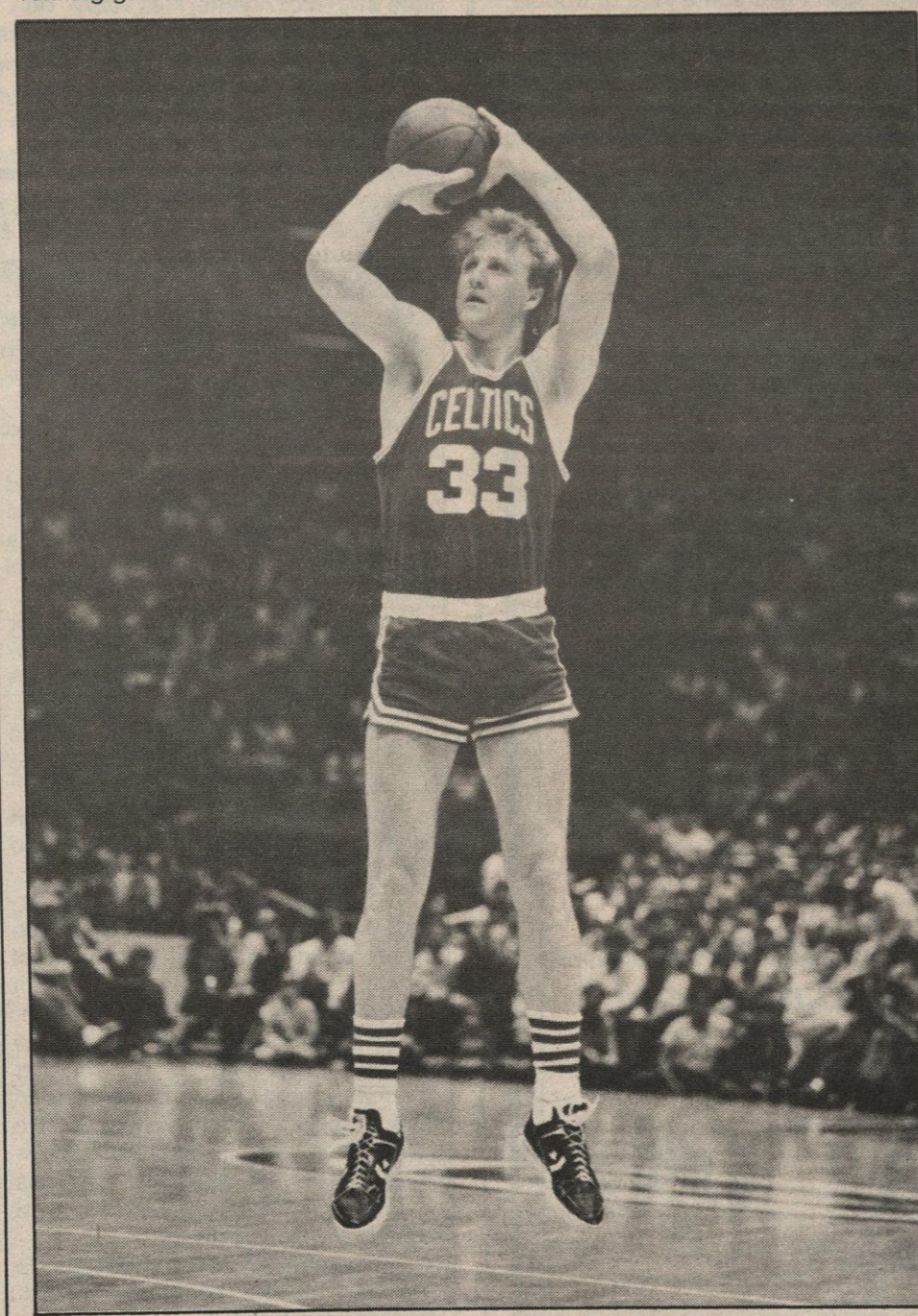
We had things our way. Kevin was working freely inside. Larry Bird and Dennis Johnson were having great games. But the momentum changed; as Larry said after, we missed Danny's play, not his emotion. And the Hawks seized the chance. They attacked, and we stood by. Our lead melted quicker than ice in May. Down to one point.

Playoff series are won and lost on the stuff of such momentum shifts. If we lose in Boston, we go to Atlanta and are forced to play a young, confident team. I let the game continue, selecting to substitute Scott Wedman late to offset their speedy Spud Webb, rather than use timeouts. I feel substituting can be used to control the tempo of a ballgame. Especially with a veteran team such as we have. Experience is an advantage we have; sometimes timeouts help younger, aggressive teams regroup.

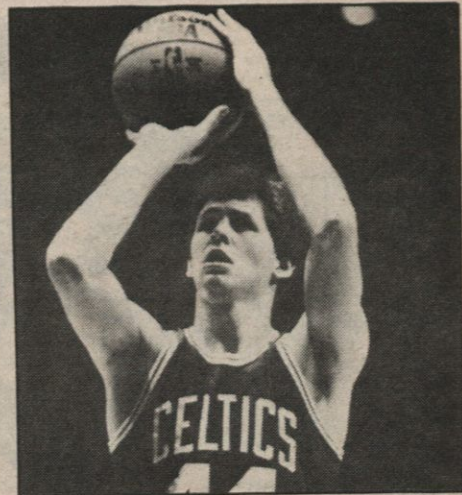
Little things mean plenty. Wedman played super; he blocked a shot, came up with a steal, and helped our ball movement (which he has done all year). We survived that scare, 119-108, and moved on to Atlanta, leading 2-0 in games.

Edges and differences. We won

the Atlanta series, 4-1, by adjusting to their attack. Spud Webb hurt us most in the playoff series with the Hawks because he sustained their running game for 48 minutes. Atlanta



Larry has orchestrated the team.



Danny's play was missed.

our game. We have forced teams to adjust to us—after the Hawks won Game 4 (We were fatigued, shooting badly), we seemed to regain our composure in Game 5. We ran off a large 3rd period and went on to close out the series, 132-98.

We played Milwaukee in the finals of the East and we were able to get the jump on them in Boston. The home court advantage slipped in the Bucks' previous series with the 76ers. Philly won the 1st game of that match in Milwaukee, thus effectively negating the edge Milwaukee had worked for all year. It took the Bucks 7 games, with an injury to Sidney Moncrief, to win that series. Undoubtedly, they had lost the physical edge they needed to defeat us in Boston.

Robert Parish, Kevin McHale, Larry Bird, Dennis Johnson, and Danny Ainge have had considerable to say about the outcome of these games. Throughout the final third of the year and into the post-season, our starters have controlled the tempo of games in the beginning. We led early consistently after the Chicago series, and the starters have played the complete game. Kevin has scored, Robert and Dennis have keyed the defense, Danny has run the floor better than ever, and Larry has orchestrated the team. Unusual, really, in traditional basketball theory. A forward doesn't usually control the ballgame, but Larry is extraordinary: a superstar who sacrifices totally for the team.

Another edge; we have dedicated ourselves again to continue our high level of play. At this time of the year, high level of play is a reason to explore ways to improve further. A team must take that attitude. There are future tests. We won early in the Milwaukee series with defense and execution. Since we are fortunate enough to make it to the finals, we will face an equally inspired and motivated team. Our edge is our execution and our will to play our ballgame. We would have four games at home, but would play Game 5 in the West. I believe that's an unfair edge for a regular season champion to have to deal with.

Perhaps that's reason enough for us to lift our play higher.





M. L. Carr

Get the Best Big Man You Can!

You've got to look at the big men — there are some quality centers in this draft. You want to take a good hard look at some of these guys, because you want to get the best big man you possibly can.

I like Brad Daugherty from North Carolina and Chris Washburn from North Carolina State a lot. I don't think

the fact Washburn has had some trouble in the past would stop the Celtics from thinking about drafting him. He's a kid — show me someone who hasn't had some kind of trouble, and I'll show you someone who hasn't existed. That could all be behind him.

I see the Celtics taking a big player with that second overall pick in the draft. I can't see them looking at

guards. I say they'll take a big player because Robert Parish and Bill Walton are both over 30, and the Celtics have to think about building for the future. You look at the Celtics and their strength in the front line and the kid they draft can learn something.

But you never know. It's not a sure thing that the Boston pick would sit a couple of years. You could get a great player with the number two pick and he could come in and play a lot. But it would be good if that player could come in and be an insurance policy and security blanket.

I mentioned Daugherty and Washburn. William Bedford, Memphis State's 7-foot center, is also up there. Bedford is a big man who can run up and down the floor.

Regardless of whom you pick, Daugherty, Washburn or Bedford, you can't lose. Yet another player to

consider is Len Bias of Maryland. He's an exciting and well-rounded player. He can do a lot of things.

Walter Berry of St. John's is also eligible for the draft, but I don't think the Celtics will be interested in him. They don't need another 6-7 forward.

What would I do if I were the Celtics general manager? I'd trade with Philadelphia and get the first pick in the draft! Either way you go, Daugherty, Washburn, Bedford, whoever, you're not going to lose. The Celtics will be in nice shape after the draft.

One thing to remember: No matter who the Celtics pick, this team will be strong anyway. The team won championships without him. This team won 15 championships before the guy ever got there.

There have been no surprises in the playoffs so far. The teams are playing the way they were expected to. I look at the Milwaukee Bucks as just another obstacle, another team in the way of the Celtics getting to the Championship series.

However, I'll admit I didn't expect the Celtics to knock out the Hawks as easy as they did. I thought it'd be a more competitive series than it was. I've been saying all along that if there was one team that scared me, it was the Hawks. That the Celtics beat them so easily was unexpected.

Is Left-Handed an Advantage?

Even as Walter Berry, the St. John's underclassman was declaring his eligibility for the draft, several writers were asked about the influence and skills of left-handed players.

"The thing about left-handed players is they have the advantage defensively," observed the Globe's Bob Ryan. "The average, normal player shoots the ball right-handed. Consequently, the defensive player who is a natural left-hander, has the advantage of defending the shot with his strong arm."

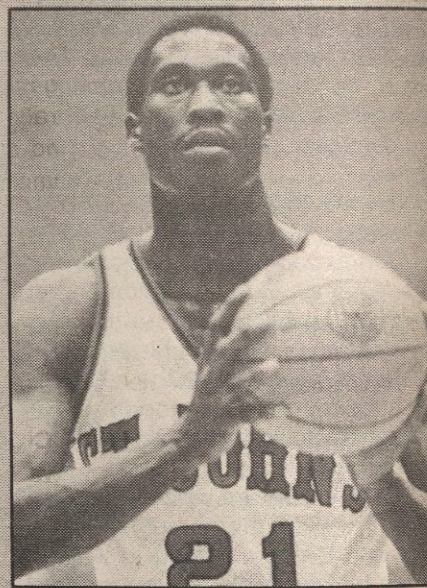
"That's what makes Kevin McHale so effective. He's able to block shots so well with his left hand."

"The typical left-handed player isn't terribly graceful, usually," added The Washington Post's Tony Cotton.

"Dick Barnett probably is the perfect example of that," added veteran writer Ryan. "He shot a jump shot which came together in 36 different compartments."

But the outstanding left-handed players do justice to any All-Star team, any hand. The best left-handed guards included Lenny Wilkens ("He never went right in thirteen years"—Ryan) and Nate Archibald, besides Barnett. Centers: Bill Russell, Bob Lanier, and Dave Cowens.

"Cowens is basketball's equivalent to baseball's hard-throwing left handed pitcher," mused



Walter Berry, advantage or not?

Ryan.

Russell, the writers agreed, refutes any thought that left-handers aren't as effective as right-handed players.

Forwards on the all-left-handed playing team included Chris Mullin, Berry, Jack Marin, and Billy Cunningham.

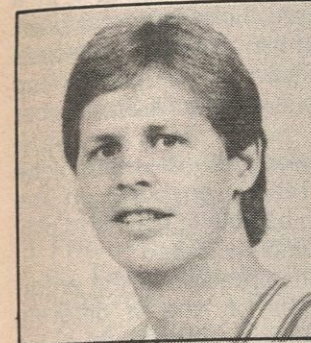
Larry Bird and Bill Walton are natural left-handers, but play basketball right-handed.

And a final wrong turn. Archibald is right-handed. "Give 'em something to think about," said the former Celtics great.

How Does It Feel to be Drafted?

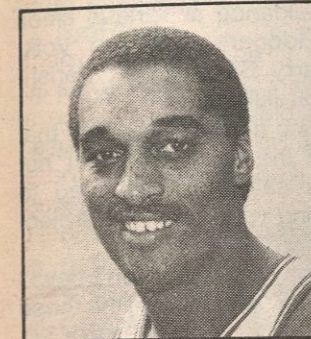
With the NBA College draft only short weeks away, college stars who have played 2-4 years as an amateur are experiencing some anxious moments. There are twenty-three teams in the National Basketball Association, and a select, select few make the professional ranks every year. Only a few first-year players made the NBA last season, for example; over two thousand collegiate males played basketball last year.

Several Celtics players were asked how they felt when they were drafted.



Danny Ainge

DANNY AINGE: My situation was unique. I was wondering if I would be able to play basketball at all. But I was excited about the Celtics drafting me. They had spoken with me about the possibility of them taking me—between their first and second choice (in 1981) which were very close together. Being drafted by the Celtics affected me. It encouraged me to think about switching sports. I was encouraged to pursue the possibility.



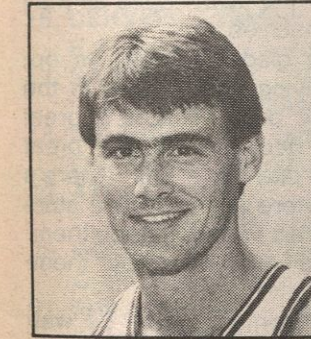
Dennis Johnson

DENNIS JOHNSON: I had no idea I was going to be drafted. Nobody knew me until our (Pepperdine) team had made the NCAA playoffs by defeating San Francisco (Bill Cartwright). For me, being drafted was a joy. As much as a surprise. I don't know anything that could match that feeling. Not beating Philadelphia. Probably not even winning the championship.



Sam Vincent

SAM VINCENT: I was excited, happy. A good feeling is what I remember. I was a Laker fan until that draft, because I am friendly with Magic Johnson and some of the other Lakers. After the draft, I became a Celtic fan. Real quick.



Rick Carlisle

RICK CARLISLE: I was pleased to be drafted. But I was angry, to be truthful, when I was drafted by the Celtics. I wanted an opportunity to play. I wasn't sure I would have that chance in Boston.



Bill Walton

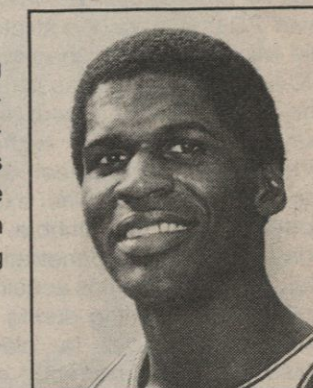
BILL WALTON: It was an exciting time; I was fortunate to be drafted by a town and a team I wanted to play for. Initially I had trouble adjusting to the weather (in Portland). But I adapted; the toughest thing about the draft is that very few college players have an opportunity to play for the pro teams they want to play for. I've been lucky; I have been able to play with the teams I've wanted to.

LARRY BIRD: I was in a different situation; there was one year left for my eligibility and I was determined to see if I could achieve some goals (in basketball and in school) that I had set up for myself. The Celtics' drafting me was an honor. I had always had respect for the Boston Celtics—Red, Dave Cowens, those people. I was looking forward to playing here.



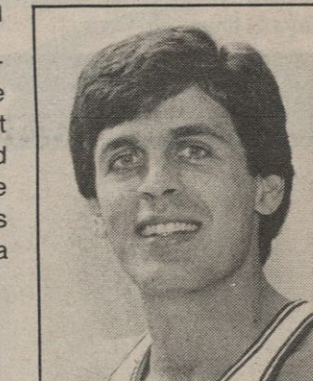
Larry Bird

ROBERT PARISH: Being drafted wasn't a big surprise, but it was a satisfying feeling, nevertheless. Our college team was on probation (Centenary) for my entire career there, so pro teams drafted me every year I was in school (by the ABA). Not too many people knew about our team so I didn't know when I'd be selected. Being chosen on the first round was very gratifying.



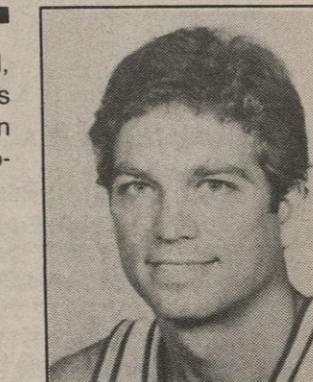
Robert Parish

KEVIN McHALE: I was honored when I learned I was going to be drafted as high I was (on the 1st round, 3rd choice in the whole draft). When it was the Celtics, it was total happiness. They had Larry (Bird), Tiny (Archibald), Dave Cowens. The important point about being drafted at the top is the security involved. And a chance you'll go to a team you'll probably play a lot of minutes on.



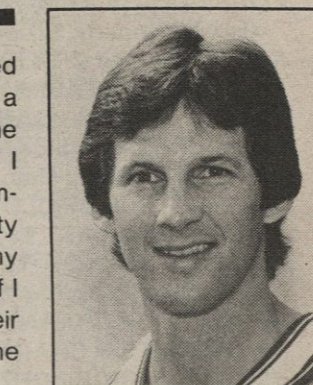
Kevin McHale

JERRY SICHTING: I just wanted to be drafted, wanted to be able to make it. Not too many guards were drafted ahead of me, but with the Warriors in 1979, it was a tough situation. That team happened to have a lot of backcourt men.



Jerry Sichting

SCOTT WEDMAN: At Colorado I had missed the final two games of my senior season with a torn ligament in my right ankle, so there was some uncertainty about playing later at all. But then I was drafted on the first round in the ABA by Memphis and my prospects improved. Kansas City came to Boulder and began negotiating after my eligibility was completed; they wanted to know if I would sign with them if I was available when their choice came up. I agreed; I was in Kansas City the day of the draft. I was just glad to be drafted



Scott Wedman

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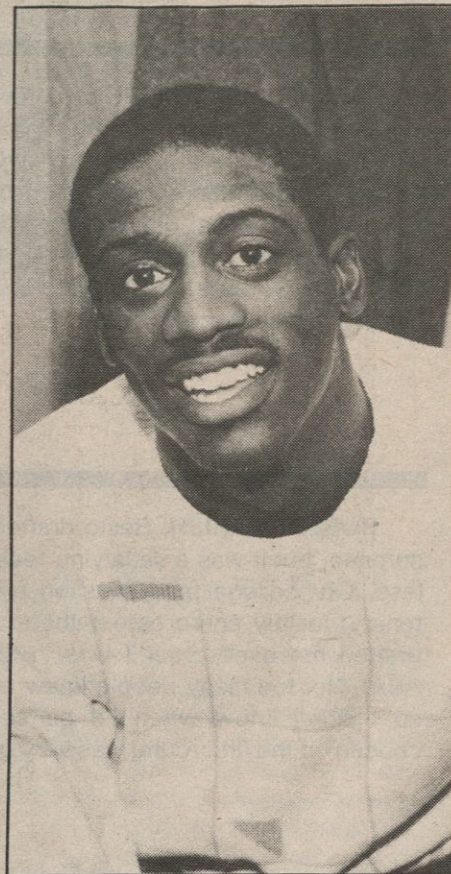
Bring this Ad to the Causeway Street McDonalds and receive a Free Coke.



Sam Vincent: A No. 1 Choice Who Struggled for Playing Time

Beneath the white lights on game day, Number 11 takes his warmups, seemingly cheerfully with the Boston Celtics. Most of the sophisticated fans around the Boston Garden know his face, his physique (6-2, 185), his court manner. Re-introducing Sam Vincent, 1985 Number 1 Draft Choice of the Boston Celtics.

Sam Vincent came to the Celtics with high expectations, as 1st round draft choices have reason and right to do. This is a player who was consensus All Big-10, a player who averaged over 20 ppg down the stretch to lead his Michigan State Spartans into the NCAA Tourney a season ago. After the Celtics drafted and signed the player, Vincent's play in the Celtics' Pre-Season Camp seemed to justify the selection. He was exceedingly speedy with the dribble, healthily confident with his penetrating game. Yet, when the Celtics acquired bullet-quick Jerry Sichting during the latter phases of camp (a player who could do things perfectly suited for this year's scheme), Vincent immediately found himself struggling for playing time.



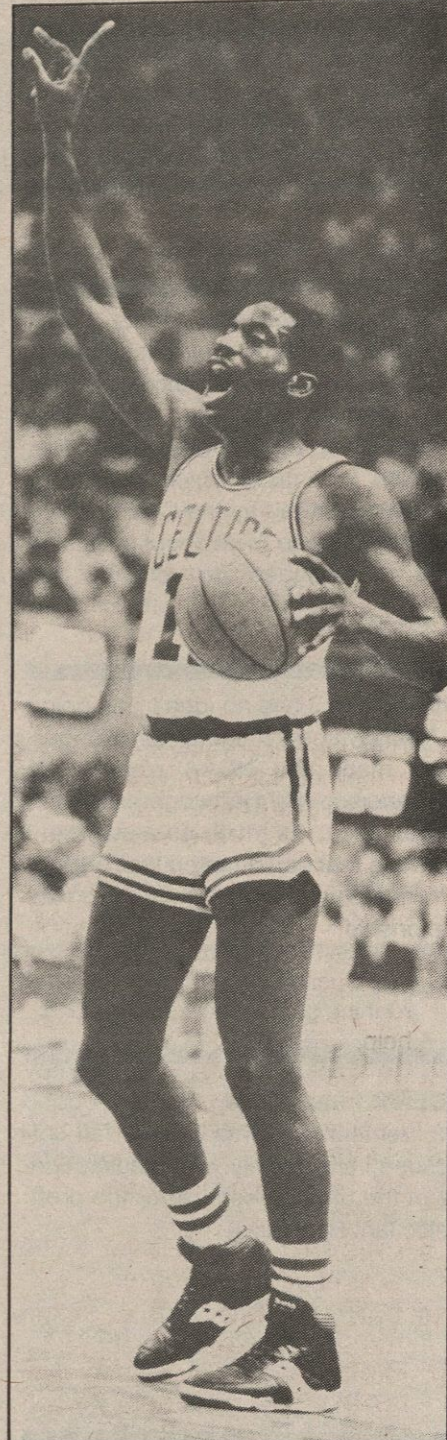
Sam had high expectations.

Self Portrait



Sam Vincent

BIRTHDATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: May 1963 in East Lansing, Michigan
FAVORITE MUSICIAN: Michael Jackson
FAVORITE ACTOR: Eddie Murphy, Richard Pryor, Jack Nicholson
IF I COULD BUY ANY CAR, I'D BUY A: Mercedes
IF I WERE REINCARNATED, I'D BE: Parodycat
ALL-TIME FAVORITE TV SHOW: Star Trek
FAVORITE CURRENT TV SHOW: Cosby
FAVORITE ANIMAL IN THE ZOO: Bear
FAVORITE FOOD: Seafood
FOUR GUESTS AT MY FANTASY DINNER PARTY: Christy Brinkley, Jayne Kennedy, Brooke Shields, and Jennifer Beals
FAVORITE NBA CITY (Besides Boston): Los Angeles
FAVORITE RESTAURANT: Scotch and Siroin
FAVORITE BOARD GAME: Scrabble
IF I COULD CHOOSE ANOTHER PROFESSION, I'D BE AN: Actor
FAVORITE DRINK: Orange Juice
OLDEST PIECE OF CLOTHING: Socks
I'D SPEND MY LAST \$10 ON: My Mother
I WISH I KNEW HOW TO: Ski, or parachute jump
FAVORITE FILMS: The Exorcist; The Omen; He Knows You're Alone
FAVORITE TV CHARACTER: JR
FAVORITE FILM CHARACTER: Sidney Poitier in Uptown Saturday Night
INDIVIDUAL HIGHLIGHT IN BASKETBALL: Scoring 61 points in a high school game.



He has learned plenty.

The season continued essentially this way. Except for a brief ten-game stretch (an important spurt for the Celtics), Vincent's time has come during the last stages of games. After a Celtics blowout—many this season by this spectacular Celtics edition. Vincent ran the team well as a player in the rotation during January but a mid-month knee injury set the rookie back. The rookie's level of play has not escaped the coaching staff.

"This is a crucial, perhaps the most important test for the 1st year player," stated Celtics assistant coach and Director of Player Personnel Jimmy Rodgers. "He comes out of school expecting to play a lot of minutes but finds there are many talented players to beat out."

"The test is to find a method to improve your game in the first season. With the Celtics, there isn't much time, the talent level is high.

The challenge is there; find a way to improve, become tough and tougher mentally."

"Sam has done everything we've asked," comments K.C. Jones. "He's down, but that's normal. He expected playing time coming in here, but I feel he's dealt with that. He's played extremely well in practice. It's unfortunate that he's in a situation where there are great guards in front of him. Dennis Johnson is among the best in the game. And Danny Ainge is playing All-Star caliber ball, now."

"If a player is on the bench, he has to be ready. Anybody on the bench has to be able to play, and play well, if his number is called."

Vincent has reacted to the enforced sparseness of time in different ways. He was first surprised, hurt. He was toughened considerably since under the guidance at various times of Jones, Rodgers, GM Jan Volz, Johnson, Larry Bird, Robert Parish, and David Thirdkill.

"I'm feeling much better now that I've realized the situation about not playing. I've sat back and tried to mature, hoping very much I'm projected to play more later."

"I'm not saying there aren't days I don't get upset. But I try to limit those days."

"You see, there are several things to learn about the pro game. The matchups, the fact that every player up here is great. The pro game is a thinking game; you have to see the floor, run the plays better and better."

"I've learned this, for example. In college, I might drive down the floor and immediately go up for the jump shot, without considering the options."

"Now I might see Larry being guarded by a 6-5 player. I'll pass in the same situation. You must take advantage of the advantages as they present themselves."

"And I'm glad I'm here, as opposed to playing with a team in the middle of the pack. This is a great team; great because we are great players who play as a unit. There's chemistry. There are individual stars but nobody tries to take it upon themselves to do everything by themselves."

"There's plenty to learn by watching—although you have to play at some point, too. You learn by watching Dennis' passing or seeing Larry's winning attitude. Or Isaiah Thomas' moves."

"But you can become complacent. Sometimes people ask me why, when I go in the game, I press the issue, create things on offense and defense. I rededicated myself to the game shortly before the playoffs. I now go out there and play each minute meaningfully."

"Otherwise you lose your game. I'm determined not to let that happen."

The 1986 NBA Draft

Two Opinions

The NBA Draft will take place June 17, a draft which has become deeper with the entry of several underclassmen. According to most scouts, there is no single, dominant player under consideration. "No player who will make sudden impact," assures Pacers' Assistant Coach Mel Daniels. There are certain trends, however; most teams will select Centers or Power Forwards if they choose early. A second rule is the team will draft the best player available unless, the third rule, it has a glaring need on their roster, and a slightly less talented player will fill that need. This season's draft is a challenge; it is deep, several players have similar appearing levels of talent, and the scouts are being tested. The following is a look at how the first round might go, by two of Celtics Pride's Editors.

By Bob Schron

1. PHILADELPHIA . Brad Daugherty
C. Talent, size, and personality
2. BOSTON William Bedford
C. Opportunity to battle Akeem.
3. GOLDEN STATE . . . Lenny Bias,
F. Superstar
4. INDIANA Ron Harper
G. Fits their need
5. NEW YORK Walter Berry
F. New York, New York
6. PHOENIX Brad Sellers
C. A running 7-footer
7. DALLAS John Salley
C. They need to back up Blab.
8. CLEVELAND Chuck Person
F. Cavs finally catch a break
9. CHICAGO Chris Washburn
C. Michael is settling influence
10. SAN ANTONIO . Kenny Walker
F. Too good to pass.
11. DETROIT Roy Tarpley,
C-F. Chuck Daly and Michigan rejoice
12. WASHINGTON Johnny Dawkins
G. Dawkins replaces Gus
13. NEW JERSEY Dwayne
"Pearl" Washington
G. with Berry in N.Y.
14. PORTLAND Maurice Martin
G. St. Joe's, if Dr. Jack stays
15. UTAH Rafael Addison
F. A new era with Mailman Malone
16. DENVER Cedrick Henderson
F. Rebounder and scorer here
17. SACRAMENTO . . . Greg Dreiling
C. Maybe they'll return to Kemper
18. DENVER Olden Polynice
C-F. Denver would have fine day
19. ATLANTA Scott Skiles
G. More pace-making
20. HOUSTON Bruce Douglas
G. Fitch gets his point guard
21. PHILADELPHIA . Harold Pressley
F. Many think he should be higher
22. MILWAUKEE . . . John Williams
F. Slips down
23. LAKERS Buck Johnson
F. A glass-eater, if in limited PT
24. PORTLAND . . . Billy Thompson
F. The best player available

By Tony Cooper

1. PHILADELPHIA . Brad Daugherty
He's acknowledged to be the top player in the draft and the Sixers have the top pick. Logical, eh?
2. BOSTON Chris Washburn
Never mind about his past. Being

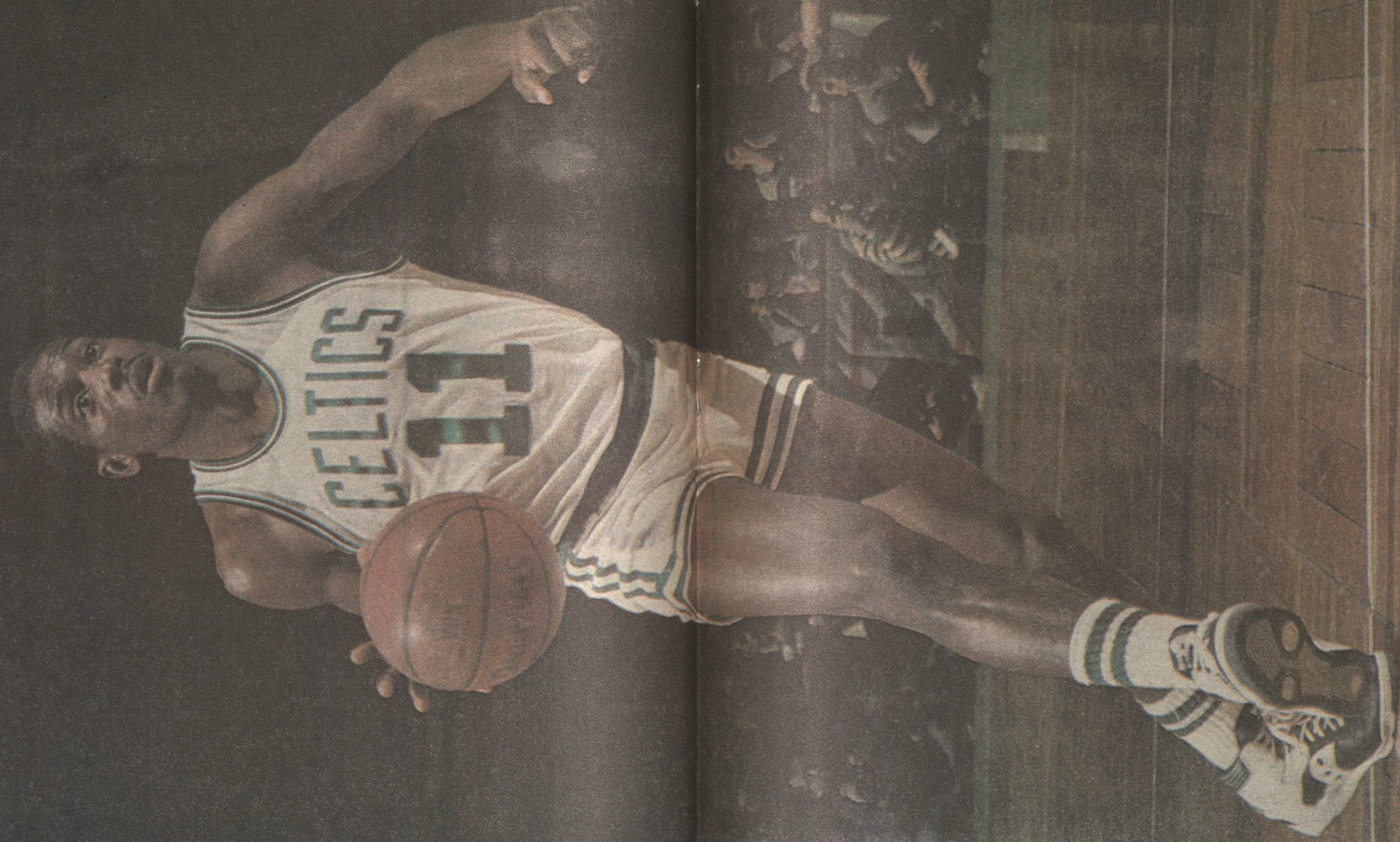
- with the Celtics will straighten him out, since his new teammates won't permit any persona non gratas.
3. GOLDEN STATE William Bedford
The Warriors will take this guy and trade Carroll, maybe to Milwaukee.
4. INDIANA Kenny Walker
Then the Pacers may trade one of their incumbent forwards for veteran guard help.
5. NEW YORK . Pearl Washington
The kid from Brooklyn would add much needed flash-and-dash to the Knicks.
6. PHOENIX Johnny Dawkins
The Suns want to go to more of a running game. Dawkins would help.
7. DALLAS Roy Tarpley
The Mavs still need a center; Tarpley is the best they can do.
8. CLEVELAND Len Bias
Bias would go nicely with Roy Hinson up front.
9. CHICAGO John Salley
Bulls need a shot blocker.
10. SAN ANTONIO . . Brad Sellers
The Spurs have to think about replacing Artis Gilmore.
11. DETROIT Chuck Person
Like most teams in the NBA, the Pistons need size and strength under the boards.
12. WASHINGTON . . . Walter Berry
Bullets could use some offense.
13. NEW JERSEY . . . Ron Harper
Highly-regarded player
14. PORTLAND Andre Turner
This is my long shot.
15. UTAH Mark Alarie
He could help the Jazz.
16. DENVER Dell Curry
17. SACRAMENTO . Maurice Martin
18. DENVER John Williams
He could step in right away
19. ATLANTA — The Hawks may trade this pick for some immediate help.
20. HOUSTON Scott Skiles
21. PHILADELPHIA . . . Mark Price
22. MILWAUKEE — The Bucks could trade this pick to the Warriors, perhaps in a package deal for Carroll.
23. LA LAKERS Dave Feitl
24. PORTLAND . Larry Krystokowiak

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SAM VINCENT

Celtics Confidential

by Bob Schron

Playoff Confidential. At this time of the season, there are the warring factions fighting within every player. Fatigue and discipline reach untold limits, and lead many to forego the fight for the rest of the season. What Bill Fitch formerly called, "The Wall." The championship teams accept these factors, battle and transcend them, and reach new heights. Certainly one of these peaks was reached in the finale of the Atlanta series May 6. A swirling combination of defense, running, hustling, crowd involvement, and five-man relatedness pushed the Celtics starters on a 24-0 3rd period roll.

Boston had similar runs in 1974 (22-0 also against Atlanta) and in 1965 (20-0 vs. the Lakers), both championship seasons.

The Celtics are wearying—two players remarked during practice that they could not wait to be through with the season. But this year's Celtics edition is hungry, and they are challenging their own athletic potential. And any other team, too.

Television ratings were impressive during the weekend of the Hawks' series. On Friday night, May 2, on WLVI, the Celtics were 1st in Boston's market, attracting 294,000 homes and ratings of 15 on the Nielson, and 11.3 on Arbitron. Sunday, May 4 was the same; tops in the market, drawing 321,000 homes, 16.4 in the Nielson, 15.0 on Arbitron. These ratings compared favorably, for example, to the Kentucky Derby; it drew 16.0 for Nielson and 13.5 Arbitron the same weekend. ...**Red Auerbach**, before drawing the 2nd selection in the televised lottery May 11th and becoming yet again the Pride of New England, did other television on-air color with Bob Neal on WTBS in the Milwaukee-Philadelphia series...**Larry Bird** has been featured by the Boston corporation, Raytheon, during Sunday morning interview program advertisements.

Skip Caray, becoming widely known and appreciated on WTBS via cable, thought during the Hawks-Celtics series, "the Hawks would be lucky to win two games." His broadcasting philosophy: "Tell the truth. You owe it to the listener. The man and woman who tunes in to watch is who you root for." Caray said that despite Ted Turner's dual ownership of the Hawks and the Cable station, Turner has never told Caray to shill for Atlanta. "But I'll root for the Hawks on the air. Mike Fratello is one of my best friends. But I'm honest, too." ...**George Karl**, **Sylvia Carr**, **M.L. Carr** were onlookers during Game 2 of the

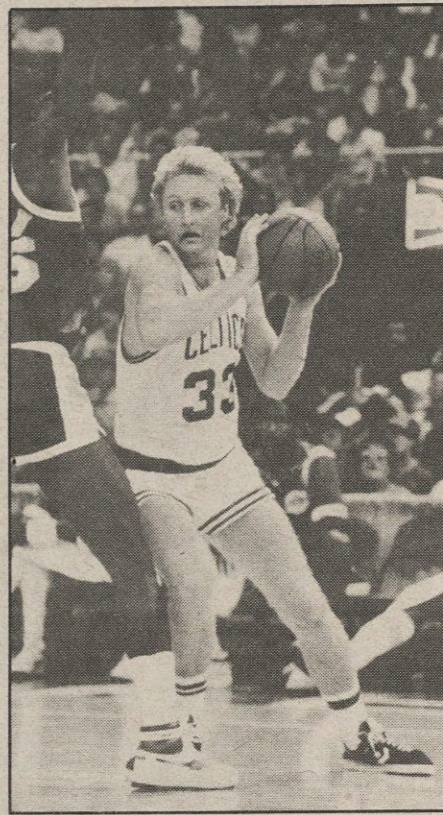


Auerbach: Expert Commentator.

Hawks' series. Karl was scouting for the Bucks; M.L. Carr, scout for the Celtics, later scouted Game 3 of the Sixers-Bucks match. When Spectrum fans saw Carr, they booed. In an informal conversation last year, Auerbach commented that coaches such as **K.C. Jones** and **Pat Riley** never received enough credit for the jobs they do because their teams are so talented. Ironical, then, that a key factor in the C's (4-1) playoff series win over the Hawks was Jones's coaching edge over this season's coach award winner, the Hawks' excellent mentor, **Mike Fratello**. Mostly due to experience. K.C. was quicker with matchups (e.g. Wedman on Webb in critical Game 2), and seemed one step ahead of Mike all series.

Fratello has matured and is an outstanding, versatile coach, however. He no longer paces in Hubie Brown's (Fratello's former boss) shadow; he has integrated Brown's analytical skills with his perceptive feel for the players' psyches.

Bird has resumed talking to the press; again proving to be as intelligent in discussing the game as he is a genius playing it. About **Spud Webb** "He's so quick up and down the court, that if our big men don't get down in time, he's giving them a sure two." After **Danny Ainge** was ejected in Game 2 of Atlanta set: "More than the emotion involved, we missed what Ainge's playing was giving us (The Hawks rallied to within 1 point, before losing, 119-108)." About possible draftee, **Brad Daugherty**: "He shoots 62 percent.



Larry would have been doubled.

Jimmy Rodgers on **Dominique Wilkins**: "Our defense against him was a carry-over from the Bulls series and Michael Jordan. We didn't want to let him be isolated too frequently. We didn't give him room; we sent another man running at him all the time. We tried to turn him into a passer. Besides the double-team, the other three men have to be rotating effectively, covering up for each other." ...Scout **Rick Weitzman** was courtside during the playoffs. He commented about the Celtics Front Office: "The people there, including the entire staff, are as important to the team's success as most players. They're experienced, smart, and been together a long time. This builds class, from the top of the organization down." ...Hawks' assistant coach **Brendon Suhr** about playing the Celtics: "Subtle moves just aren't that important against the Celtics. They come ready to play (like the great team they are). K.C. and his staff put them in a positive frame of mind to play every night; they like each other and they play that way."

General Manager **Jan Volz** commented last week that the team was close to announcing on a contract with **Scott Wedman**...Volz also sees the collegiate draft optimistically. "We wanted to have one of the first four choices." The Celtics finished 2nd in the lottery, May 11...Auerbach, asked if he relied on any good luck charms, or prayers, during the random choice, said, "(Events subject to luck) you don't use prayers for." Commenting on the C's choice and the **Henderson** trade in

retrospect, Red added, "Don't forget, we gave Seattle a starting player for two years. Henderson played very well for them, too. My reasoning was a guy that size you can find easier."

Charles Barkley edged **Larry Bird** out for the Schick Player of the Year award. This is an award which attempts to measure and average out (via computer) a player's total contribution to his team...**Billy Cunningham**, recently inducted into the Hall of Fame with Heinsohn and a commentator during the playoffs on CBS, offered that when he coached the Sixers, "We felt that the key to defeating the Lakers was recovering loose balls."

According to **Mike Schuler**, Bucks' assistant coach, there were three keys for the Bucks to defeat the Celtics. "One, we have to shoot the ball better than in the five regular season games we played against them. Second, for a team to beat Boston, you must keep them off the offensive boards. Third, you must slow down their transition game... Schuler was asked if the Celtics were as good as their 67-15 record reflected. "They are certainly better than they were a year ago. They are a team that doesn't have a weakness. They handle the ball. They pass it. They can beat you in a deliberate game, or in an up-tempo game. Schuler is rumored to be one of a handful of candidates for the Golden State coaching position. "I'm not in any discussion stage with them right now, he said... **George Karl**, also rumored to be a candidate for that job (as well as San Antonio and Chicago) felt that the way to defeat the Celtics was to compete with them, and not necessarily slow the game down. "I'm not above using gimmicks," he said. "Last year in Cleveland, if we had beaten the Celtics in the fourth game and come back to Boston for a 5th game, I would have double teamed **Larry Bird** all over the court. I would have made **Danny Ainge** beat us..."

Rumor has it that the Celtics will invite **Adrian Branch**, Maryland 6-8 Guard to camp next year. According to **Willie Maye**, WILD Sports Director, a friend of Branch, Red Auerbach changed his mind about Branch. "In the beginning of the 1985-86 season, before Adrian went to the CBA for a season, Red was advising him to look for a job outside of basketball. But now he's inviting him to camp."

According to **Bird**, the idea of playing a strong man on defense weakening his offensive game is inaccurate. "I like playing the tough man when we're on defense. It improves my concentration."

May 13, at Boston Celtics 128, Bucks 96

While it's true that the Milwaukee Bucks, coached by former Celtics great Don Nelson, are one of the elite teams in the NBA, they didn't have anything on Boston on this night.

The Celtics had a 29-12 lead after the first 12 minutes of play, and it was lights out after that, as the Celtics took a 1-0 lead in the series.

"I was concerned that we might not be able to play as well as we did, McHale said. "We might be flat, not come out as strong as we did. But everything went right."

Said Celtics Coach K.C. Jones: "We can be rusty on the offensive end. But be were sharp as all get-out on the defensive end. That just takes work and not being lazy."

The Bucks weren't lazy, probably just a little tired. They had only one day off after finishing a grueling, seven-game series against the Philadelphia 76ers. Milwaukee was also playing without star guard Sidney Moncrief, who had a bad heel.

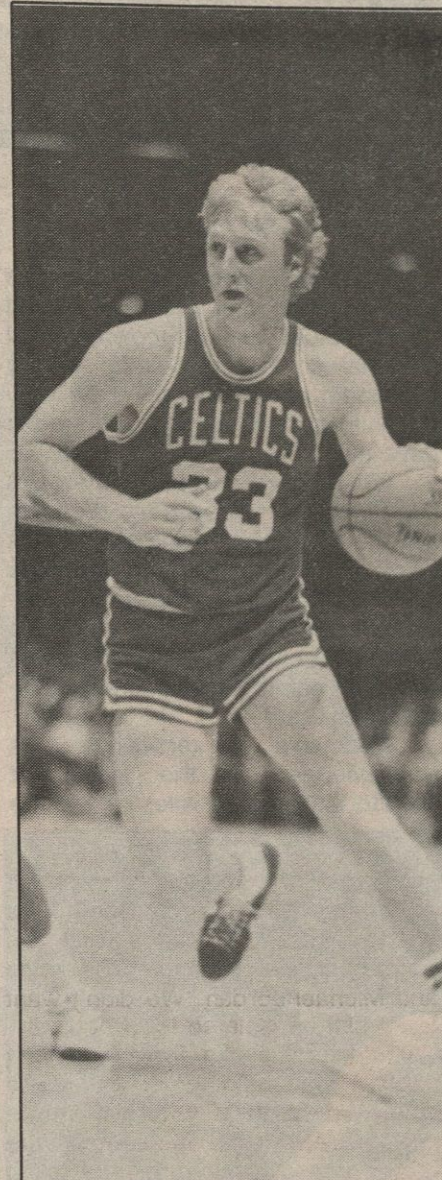
"It's the little guys on the block competing against the big guys," Nelson said. "They're the best team in the game. We weren't up to the task tonight."

"We probably missed six shots (in the first quarter) that we would normally make and we probably had six or eight shots they covered well. They certainly played excellent defense."

Boston's offense was cooking in the first quarter, as McHale had 10 points and Larry Bird added nine. The 29-12 first quarter lead was eventually extended to 49-29 later in the first half.

Despite the lopsided win, Jones isn't ordering championship rings yet. "It's just one game," he said. "They're not overmatched, they're hurt. I don't expect to see that type of game from them the next ballgame." Kenny Fields had 18 for the Bucks.

GAME BY GAME - REVIEW



Bird: Has no conscience.

May 15, at Boston Celtics 122, Milwaukee 111

Unlike game one, this was no blowout. The Celtics were up by six with three minutes to play in the game, then went on an 8-2 run to sew up the contest and take a 2-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

"It was a sweet victory," Celtics Coach K.C. Jones said. "The Bucks came out with a game plan to drive to the basket, we weathered the storm. We got the breaks at the end."

A basket by Randy Breuer and two free throws by Craig Hodges made the score 107-101 with three minutes remaining. A three-point play by Kevin McHale made the score 110-101, and following a hook by Alton Lister, Danny Ainge canned a jumper and McHale hit another three point play, that was that.

"I thought we showed a lot more poise and patience on the offensive end when they closed it (the lead) up," center Robert Parish said.

Added Larry Bird: "They tried to steal this one. We made some mistakes but we had the lead and weren't worried."

The Bucks were much more game opponents on this night than in the series opener.

"They played much more aggressively tonight than they did Tuesday," Dennis Johnson said. "Tonight, we moved the ball well when the big people got double teamed."

Speaking of big people, Bird had a game-high 26 points to go along with nine assists, Danny Ainge scored 23, Johnson and Parish added 21 apiece, and McHale threw in 20. Terry Cummings (23 points) and Breuer (21) paced the Bucks.

May 17, at Milwaukee Celtics 111, Milwaukee 107

The Bucks had a 13 point lead on the Celtics, but that didn't stop the C's from bouncing back from that third-quarter deficit and taking a 3-0 lead in the Eastern Conference finals.

"It takes a lot to rattle us, to shake us," Kevin McHale said. "We just go in there and grind out those wins, we didn't play with a lot of emotion."

"We've seen it all before -- it's not

like we haven't been down before. It takes a lot to surprise us."

It's not surprising that McHale, one of the league's premier players, had a great game -- 29 points and 11 rebounds. Center Robert Parish had 12 rebounds and 28 points, with 12 of his scores coming in the final quarter.

The Celtics didn't take the lead until the fourth quarter, when Larry Bird's jumper gave them a 94-92 lead with 7:48 remaining, Bird had 19 points, 16 rebounds and 13 assists.

"We executed very well in the second half," Bird said. "Our defense was excellent. We were getting easy baskets. We made the extra pass."

Said Bucks Coach Don Nelson: "They put on a clinic."

May 18, at Milwaukee Celtics 111, Milwaukee 98

Now that he's pretty much mastered the forward position, the Celtics decided to give Larry Bird a run at guard. And the results were quite nice.

Bird scored 17 of his game-high 30 points from the backcourt-- including four three-point goals, as the Celtics eliminated the Bucks and advanced to the NBA championship series.

Bird was moved to the backcourt after Dennis Johnson fouled out. He also had five assists and eight rebounds.

"The backbreaker was Bird's first three-pointer," Celtics Coach K.C. Jones said. "He was also on the boards, making layups and giving assists. He's the one that really puts us ahead."

Milwaukee guard Sidney Moncrief would agree with that.

"From a psychological standpoint, it puts a lot of pressure on the opposition."

Said Danny Ainge: "Larry's got no conscience out there. He's our leader and he does it in every way."

Celtics 128, Bucks 96 MILWAUKEE

Cummings 3-13 2-3 8, Lister 3-8 0-3 6, Breuer 5-10 1-1 11, Hodges 4-10 4-5 14, Pressey 3-9 1-8, Pierce 2-12 3-3 7, Mokeski 0-0 0-0 0, Davis 4-12 4-4 12, Fields 8-11 1-5 13, Glenn 2-5 0-0 4, Reynolds 2-6 4-6 8, Totals 36-96 20-31 96.

BOSTON

McHale 8-11 1-1 17, Bird 9-15 7-7 26, Parish 5-10 0-3 10, Johnson 7-11 0-0 14, Ainge 1-6 4-4 6, Walton 6-8 3-3 15, Vincent 3-5 0-0 6, Wedman 5-9 1-1 11, Sichting 1-5 1-1 3, Carlisle 3-6 0-0 6, Kite 4-5 0-0 8, Thirlkill 2-3 2-4 6, Totals 54-96 19-24 128.

Milwaukee 12 26 30 28-96

Boston 29 31 33 33-128

Three-point goals—Hodges 2, Pressey, Fields, Bird. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 51 (Cummings 11), Boston 67 (Ainge 10). Assists—Milwaukee 17 (Cummings, Hodges, Fields 3), Boston 39 (Sichting 8). Total fouls—Milwaukee 23, Boston 28. A—14,890.

Celtics 122, Bucks 111 MILWAUKEE

Pressey 7-11 3-6 17, Cummings 9-17 5-8 23, Breuer 9-11 3-3 21, Moncrief 1-8 0-0 2, Hodges 5-11 2-2 14, Lister 9-12 4-5 22, Reynolds 1-2 0-0 2, Davis 3-5 2-2 8, Fields 1-3 0-0 2, Glenn 0-0 0-0 0, Mokeski 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 45-90 19-24 111.

BOSTON

McHale 6-13 8-12 20, Bird 10-19 5-5 26, Parish 8-17 5-6 21, Johnson 8-15 4-4 21, Ainge 10-12 2-2 23, Walton 1-4 0-0 2, Sichting 2-3 1-1 5, Wedman 2-4 0-0 4, Thirlkill 0-0 0-0 0, Totals 47-87 25-30 122.

Milwaukee 29 26 25 31-111

Boston 38 27 26 38-122

Three-point goals—Hodges 2, Bird, Johnson, Ainge. Fouled out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 40 (Lister 7), Boston 45 (Parish 9). Assists—Milwaukee 28 (Pressey 9), Boston 34 (Bird 9). Total fouls—Milwaukee 26, Boston 16. Technicals—Milwaukee Coach Nelson. A—14,890.

Celtics 111, Bucks 107 BOSTON

Bird 7-15 3-4 19, McHale 12-21 5-7 29, Parish 12-21 4-6 28, Ainge 3-12 6-6 12, D. Johnson 3-11 5-8 11, Walton 3-5 3-4 9, Sichting 1-3 0-0 2, Wedman 0-1 1-2 1, Totals 41-89 27 111.

MILWAUKEE

Cummings 12-25 3-3 27, Pressey 5-13 7-8 18, Breuer 0-4 1-2 1, Hodges 5-9 0-0 11, Moncrief 9-24 4-6 24, Lister 7-12 5-9 19, Pierce 2-4 1-2 5, C. Davis 0-1 0-0 0, Mokeski 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 41-94 21-30 107.

Boston 32 21 29 29-111

Milwaukee 35 25 27 20-107

Three-point goals—Moncrief 2, Bird 2, Hodges, Pressey. Fouled out—Parish. Rebounds—Boston 58 (Bird 16), Milwaukee 62 (Cummings 18). Assists—Boston 30 (Bird 13), Milwaukee 22 (Pressey 9). Total fouls—Boston 24, Milwaukee 30. A—11,052.

Celtics 111, Bucks 98 BOSTON

Bird 10-17 5-5 30, McHale 9-16 2-3 20, Parish 4-12 4-4 12, Ainge 9-15 4-4 25, D. Johnson 4-11 5-5 13, Walton 3-5 3-4 9, Sichting 1-3 0-0 2, Thirlkill 0-1 0-0 0, Totals 43-80 23 111.

MILWAUKEE

Cummings 7-22 1-2 15, Pressey 8-20 6-7 23, Breuer 0-0 0-0 0, Hodges 6-13 0-0 13, Moncrief 7-16 13-15 27, Lister 3-6 0-0 6, Pierce 0-0 2-2 2, Mokeski 2-3 2-2 6, Glenn 0-0 0-0 0, C. Davis 2-6 0-0 4, Reynolds 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 35-89 24-28 98.

Boston 25 37 17 22-111

Milwaukee 28 30 24 15-98

Three-point goals—Bird 5, Ainge 3, Pressey, Hodges. Fouled out—D. Johnson. Rebounds—Boston 53 (McHale 11), Milwaukee 46 (Lister 12). Assists—Boston 17 (Bird, Ainge 5), Milwaukee 25 (Moncrief 8). Total fouls—Boston 26, Milwaukee 22. Technicals—Lister, McHale, Milwaukee Coach Nelson, Pierce (ejected). A—11,052.





Eddie Gnillooly

Need a Hero? Call on Scott!

Center Bill Walton and guard Jerry Sichting were heralded throughout the season for their contributions off-the-bench. The plaudits were richly deserved as the pair proved strong performers in their reserve roles.

Walton's performance during the season earned him the league's "best sixth man" award, as was predicted here at the season's outset. The award was presented at the Boston Garden during the recent Conference Final series against the Milwaukee Bucks.

Sichting has been hailed in many corners as the best third guard in the NBA and if the league had an award for this role, he certainly would have been one of the leading candidates. Sichting lived up to his reputation as a deadly sharpshooter who can pump the ball through the strings off the break or in a set offense.

But the Celtics bench doesn't stop there. There's steady Scott Wedman who would be a unanimous choice for the "Unsung Hero" award if such a distinction was established by the NBA. Scott has been a valuable piece of property since being acquired from the Cleveland Cavaliers during the 1982-83 season.

A starter and one of the league's top scorers in his first eight seasons in the NBA with Kansas City and Cleveland, the 34-year-old Wedman accepted his utility role with the Celtics with great energy and without a whimper. He gives 100% whether he's in a game for two minutes or 20 minutes.

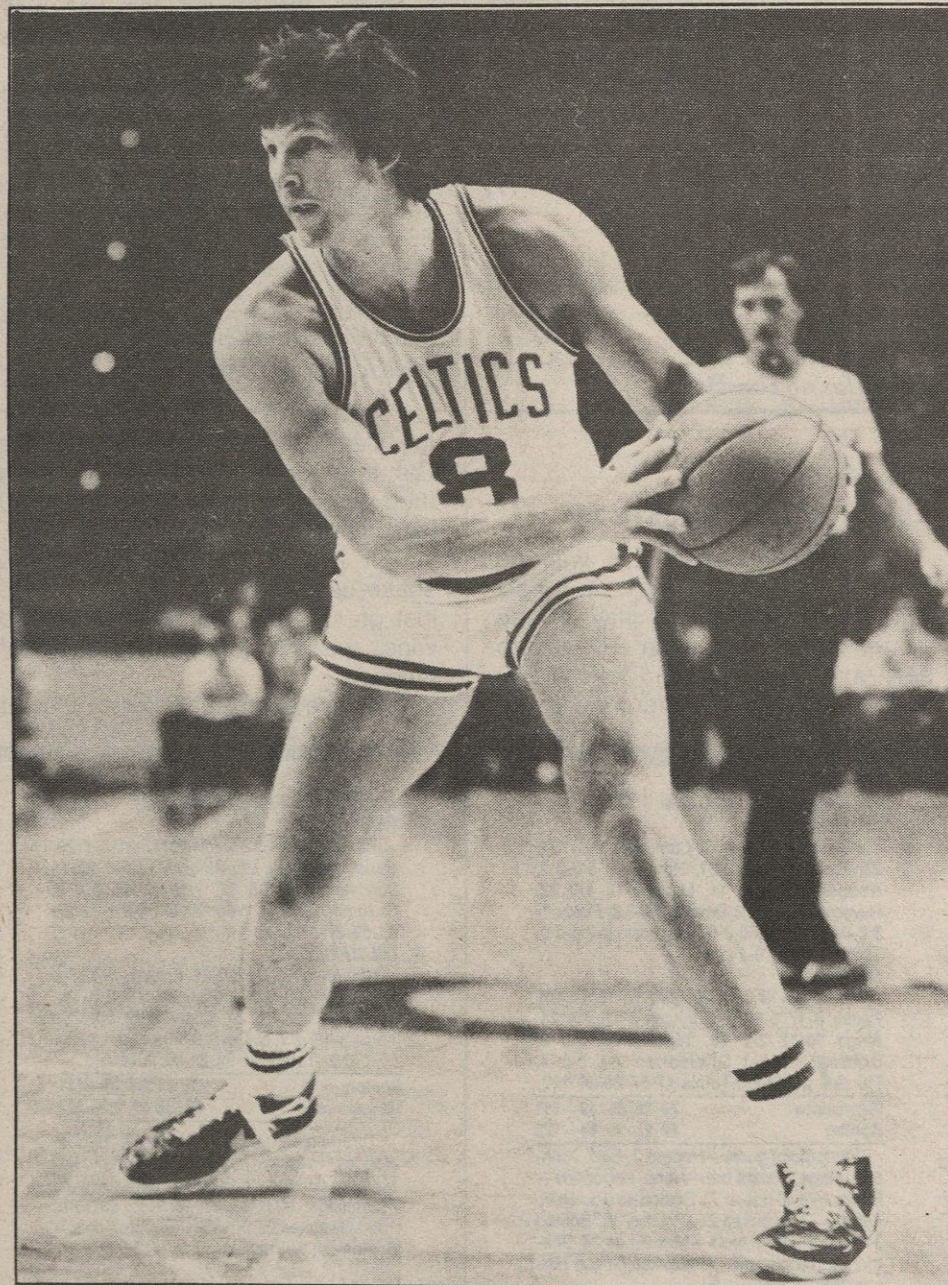
The 6-7 Wedman is a tremendous outside shooter and his key role is to be available when Larry Bird needs a breather which means he doesn't get too much playing time at the quick forward position. But, because of his many talents, Coach K.C. Jones had been able to utilize Wedman in other situations.

"Scotty would be starting for most teams in the NBA so it's a real luxury having a quality player like him on the bench," said Jones. "He's an exceptionally smart player who can perform at both the guard and forward positions."

While most fans view Wedman as a perimeter shooter, it's his all-around effort that excites his coaches and teammates. Wedman is a strong rebounder and a solid defender who doesn't hesitate banging with the big guys inside the paint.

When Kevin McHale suffered a heel injury at mid-season, Wedman got the starting nod and the Celtics were 15-3 when Kevin returned to full-time duty. During that stint, Wedman averaged better than 10 points a game and in one contest had double figures in points and rebounds against Golden State.

Wedman's versatility is acknowledged in the fact, that despite his reserve role, he led the



Scott Wedman: "Unsung Hero!"

team in scoring and rebounding once, steals six times and blocked shots four times.

In the recent playoff series against Atlanta when tiny Spud Webb began generating some offense for the Hawks and at the same time getting the Celtics guards in foul trouble, Jones made a surprise move by inserting Wedman in the backcourt.

Almost immediately, the Hawks lifted the diminutive guard because it was felt he would be a liability on defense trying to guard Wedman in post-up situations. That was exactly Jones' thinking when he called on the not-so-speedy Wedman to cover the whippet-fast Webb.

If Webb would create a score at one end with his speed which he had been doing anyway, then the Hawks would pay at the other end with Wedman posting up the 5-7 Webb. The confrontation never happened because Webb went to the bench.

Jones kept Wedman in the contest and the strategy proved fruitful as Scotty caused two turnovers, grabbed a pair of rebounds and scored six points in a five minute performance down the stretch of a close game.

Wedman is no stranger to the guard position. In the 1981 playoffs while he was a member of the Kansas City Kings, Wedman and Ernie Grunfeld were shifted to the backcourt when starting guards Otis Birdsong and Phil Ford were injured.

Scott and Grunfeld carried the Kings into the Western Conference Finals where they lost in five games to the Houston Rockets. That was the year the Celtics won their first NBA title in the Bird era, taking the Rockets in six games.

In the 15 playoff games that season against Portland, Phoenix and Houston, Wedman averaged 20.5 points a game, mostly from his new position in the backcourt. In addition, he averaged 5.8 rebounds, 3.8 assists and 1.2 steals.

Despite the addition of Walton and Sichting, Wedman gained more playing time (1402 minutes) this past season than he did in his previous two years with the Celtics. As a result, his statistics improved considerably.

He finished the regular season with 634 points in 79 games--most in both categories since the year he was traded to the Celts. He averaged 17.7 minutes and 8.0 points a game.

Wedman is the quiet man of the Celtics. Even when he emerges in the "hero" role, Wedman will downplay contributions. But, Scott is highly respected by his coaches and teammates. They know and appreciate what he can do on the court.

But most important to the Celtics success has been Wedman's willingness to accept the role of a reserve. Many athletes who started for eight seasons would have trouble with that assignment.

Mascot or Not, Busty Hart Stirs up the Crowd



We can't imagine how she got her name.

The Celtics have prided themselves for presenting a family game through the seasons. It has been Red Auerbach's theory, traditionally, that gimmicks and diversions be avoided.

"If you bring in the fans that way," Red has insisted, "They won't come if you don't give things away. The team has to be able to sell itself."

With last week's 267th consecutive sellout, all since the middle of the season Larry Bird arrived, the theory is validated.

Yet, in the middle of Playoff Game 1 against the Atlanta Hawks, seated in Loge 31 near mid-court was Busty Hart, a woman whose chest is monumentally bust. All bust.

Busty Hart is a former Dana Hall prep student basketball player, and she continued her education at Pine Manor in Brookline. Her first career was as a paralegal. Until she began using her physical assets to her advantage, as a stripper. She danced some during the nationally televised Game 1, when she became her own

game, as the cameras zeroed in. Next to her was John Salley, the fine center of Georgia Tech, who did not accompany her.

"I love the Celtics and I hope I can bring them luck," she said last week. "I'm not interested in running out on the floor or anything like that. But I'm happy people in the stands--or on the floor--are happy I'm here."

Busty Hart stated in last week's Boston Globe that she is pleased to be the Celtics' mascot. The team has made no formal statement on the heavy local incident. She is a fan, cheering the Celtics, like the rest of the sellout crowd which cheers for the title-bound team every game. Her seat has improved, though. She was in the front row, opposite the Atlanta bench in Game 2, a sight for distracted eyes.

Busty was sitting behind the Celtics bench in Game 1 of the Bucks' series, and attempts to interview the attractive blonde were refused by three police officers. They were apparently fearful of over-exposure.

hajar's for Big or Tall Men

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Style
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Glenn Ordway

Celtics Get an "A" in Chemistry

This year's Celtics team has been described as the deepest, most talented and most versatile in the NBA. The one ingredient most observers seem to overlook is team chemistry. And that intangible may be the key element that puts this team over the top. In my years of covering professional sports, I have been around winners and losers. The difference of talent is not nearly as great as the teams chemical balance. Give me a team that takes twelve cabs after a ballgame and I'll give you a loser.

Don't underscore the fact that this Celtics team likes each other. As hokey as it sounds, it's a tremendous factor. Strong team chemistry has a way of thwarting internal difficulties when things start to fail out on the court. This team does not waste it's time pointing fingers at each other. When a teammate makes a mistake out there they vocally harass him in a kidding way. It gets the point across without destroying the friendship that binds this club together. So if your starting an NBA team, you may want to begin by obtaining a dominant cen-



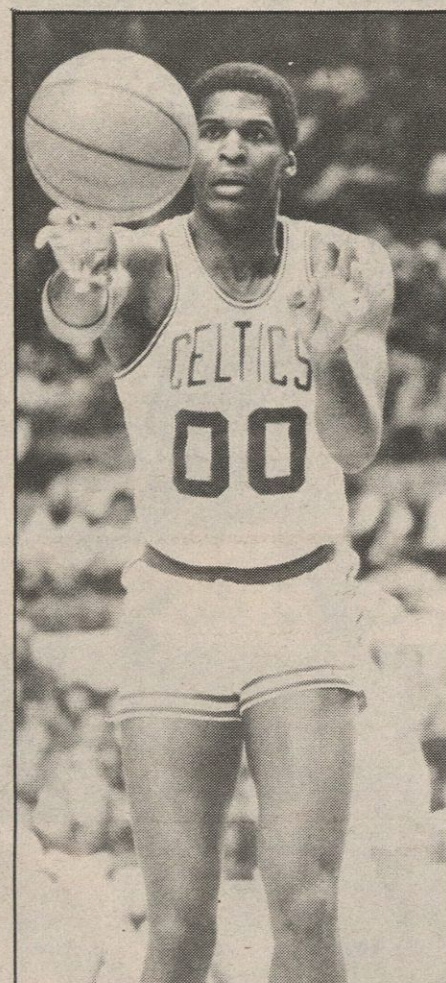
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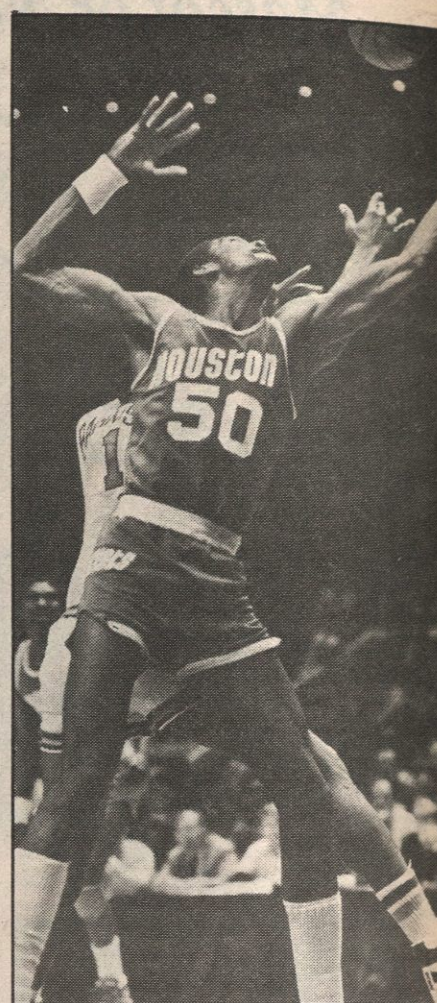
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Parish: Signed on again.

ter. But your next step should probably be trying to develop team chemistry.

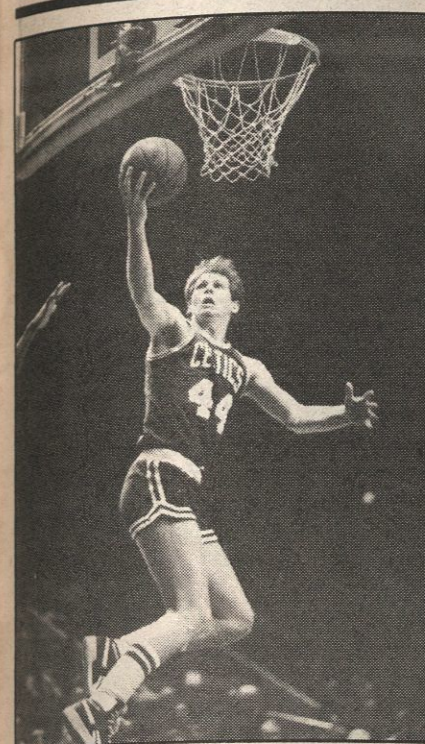
Let me start complaining now about the NBA's 2-3-2 Championship playoff format so that no one can accuse me of knocking it after the Celtics have been affected by it. What reward is there anymore for obtaining the best regular season record? No more byes in the first round...and the pivotal fifth game of the final series played on the road. If the NBA is so confident that this 2-3-2 is such an equitable system, why don't they start employing it in the earlier rounds? If they did we would see major upsets. The home court advantage is greater in Pro basketball than in any other sport. In baseball where they use the 2-3-2 for the World Series a dominate pitcher can win home or away. In hockey, where they just abandoned the 2-3-2, you can win on the road if you have a hot goaltender. But basketball is more of a team game. The emotions of a crowd have a direct bearing on the emotions of that home team. Let's not diminish the importance of the regular season anymore than we have. Bring back the 2-2-1-1-1 system.



Sampson: Never left out.

As much as some of the fans seem to be a little disappointed with the prospect of a Boston-Houston final instead of Boston-L.A., imaging how C.B.S. and the league feel. The last nine months have been spent presenting us with the longest running pre-game show previewing the rubber match of the century....Despite the fact that it's nearly impossible to trade away superstars with today's complicated salary cap, fans continue to fantasize about these mythical blockbuster deals. And notice how they always include Ralph Sampson's name.... The Celtics are not only getting the job done on the court, but off the court as well. Having tied up Robert Parish, Greg Kite and Scott Wedman to new deals, they seem determined not to allow any of their vital personal to delve into the free agent market....As for the draft Though I happened to be a big fan of Len Bias, I am also sensitive of the formula for building a winner (IN THE MIDDLE). Four years from now the Celtics will have an aging Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish. Add Bias to the squad and you have a contender but probably not enough strength in the middle to contend with what will be the force of the league (Ewing, Benjamin, Olajuwon). Now instead of Bias, add William Bedford, Chris Washburn or Brad Daugherty and you give the Celtics a team that not only can contend but one that can win. It's this same planning for the future that has kept this franchise right in the thick of things for all but a few years of their existence.

Danny Ainge: People Enjoy Disliking Him



Danny sure looks like an angel.

Take a close look at Celtics guard Danny Ainge. Doesn't he have a sensitive, innocent, choir-boy face? But despite this harmless mein, Ainge is probably one of the least popular players in the NBA among rivalry players, coaches and fans.

His Boston teammates find him to be quite palatable. But Ainge is the one Celtic everyone seems to enjoy disliking.

Ainge has earned a reputation as being a cheap-shot artist, a rap which was first spawned in 1983, when he had his famous set-to with Atlanta Hawks center Tree Rollins. The whole mess started when Rollins elbowed Ainge, who retaliated by tackling the 7-foot Rollins. Rollins was so enraged he took a healthy bite into Ainge's hand.

"That's when it all started," Ainge says. "All these accusations are ludicrous."

The altercations didn't stop there. Ainge and New York Knick guard Darrell Walker did a little dance during a playoff game two years ago. During a late-season game against the Philadelphia 76ers, Ainge and Sedale Threatt had a fight. Threatt was kicked out of that game for hitting Ainge with a roundhouse punch.

Then there was the episode against the Hawks in this year's playoffs, when Ainge was bounced for kicking Hawk Scott Hastings. At least no one can accuse Ainge of picking on those smaller than he. Hastings is 6-10, 250 and one of the biggest players in the NBA.

"It's time somebody owned up to what's going on," Atlanta Hawks coach Mike Fratello says. "It's time people stopped looking at Ainge as a choir boy. You can't overlook what he does just because he plays for the Celtics. He does things like that all

the time."

Says Ainge: "That's ridiculous. He doesn't really believe that. Remarks like that don't bother me. I'm not going to change because some people are criticizing me."

There's no question that Ainge plays as aggressively as anyone. Not only that, as the saying goes, he don't take *nothing* from nobody. op-

posing players take one look at the ex-Brigham Young All-American and expect him to be a pushover. When it turns out he's not, it's undoubtedly unnerving to many people.

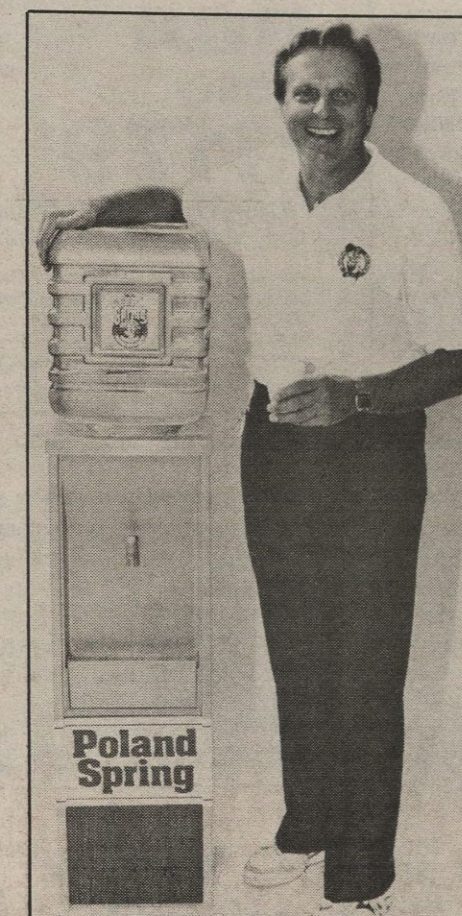
"I don't think I'm a dirty player by any means," Ainge says. "I love the game and try to do my job well. I play with a lot of intensity and enthusiasm I'm not out there to hurt anybody."

Boston Coach K.C. Jones is upset by the criticism hurled by Ainge.

"To tarnish a player's name to help your game strategy is going too far," Jones says "Danny has been going through hell and high water since his court battle over his baseball contract. He is realizing his potential. He has confidence in his shot and he can play defense. I like to see him play like that."

And don't expect Ainge to be any less feisty in the process.

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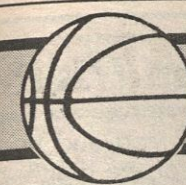


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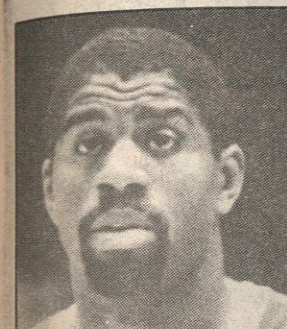


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Magic Johnson

Magic Johnson on playing with Larry Bird on a 1975 all-star team: "Larry Bird was one who stood tall, and playing on the same team with him was sweet. There was one game in Atlanta where he and I came down on a three on two fast break. I was in the middle. Without looking, I flipped the ball over to him and he immediately responded by flipping it back for the lay-in. The crowd went nuts. No-look passes back-to-back; Larry and I were out there tricking them. Oh, yes, Bird and I were on the second five. But this was a second five that killed teams."

Doug Moe, after Denver had lost the first two games of its series with the Rockets: "We've at least got to give Houston a chance to choke."



Doug Moe



Tom Heinsohn

Tommy Heinsohn on being inducted to the Hall of Fame: "This is a kind of acknowledgement of what the Celtics stand for as a team and what part I played on that team. It shows that statistics aren't important. What's important is winning and getting the job done together as a team and I'm pleased to be joining a lot of my teammates."

Robert Parish talks about the problems Greg Kite endures with officials: "Being without Bill Walton, if he's injured, wouldn't be so bad for us if the officials just don't make so many calls against Greg. For some reason, they won't let him touch a guy without calling a foul. It's almost automatic that Greg is going to get three fouls as soon as he steps on the court. It just isn't right."



Robert Parish

By the Numbers — May 1 — May 18

Boston continued to tear their opponents asunder—the Green stormed through Georgia and swept Atlanta aside, 4-1. Immediately afterward, the Milwaukee Bucks invaded, and Boston swept that series.

The noteworthy team statistic during this phase of the season, post-season, when the opponents are more difficult and increasingly motivated, is the margin of victory. In eight victories, the C's margin of win was 15. The latter stat is highlighted by the back-to-back wins over Atlanta and Milwaukee—33 and 32.

Against Milwaukee in Game 2, all five starters scored over 20 points. C's have amassed a 78-16 record (playoffs & regular season). Four championship wins would make them the winningest team ever in NBA history for a single season.

Kevin McHale: 29 points, 11 rebounds, 5 blocks against Bucks, Game 3 and 25 points, 6 rebounds in Game 3 of the Atlanta series, both opening road games of road pair in those series. Inside-out passing featured another superlative effort in Game 2 of Hawks' series: 6 assists, 22 points, 9 rebounds.

Larry Bird: His total game was never better (!) than in the final two contests of Bucks' series. Game 3, a triple double: 19 points, 16 rebounds, 13 assists. He completed the Bird-weekend with 30 points, 8 rebounds, 5 assists in clincher of that series. In the latter game, he also scored 5-6 from 3-point FG range.



Larry Bird: Never better.

28 points 12 assists in Game 3 Atlanta series; his 36 point game in Game 2 of Atlanta set saved the Celtics in that game. Outscored entire Bucks team 17-16 to topple Bucks in 4th period of 4th game.

Robert Parish: Best scoring game since mid-March in Game 3 of Bucks' series: 28 points, including 10 down stretch. Added 12 rebounds and 2 blocks. 13 points, 14 rebounds, 1 block against Hawks, Game 3.

Dennis Johnson: Set tempo for Hawks series with stunning 16 point 14 assist game in opener. Two nights later, he completed the message: 15 points, 9 assists, 6 rebounds, 7 steals. In more overlooked way, he's become a genuine superstar on this team. 13 points, 8 rebounds, 8 assists, 1 steal in game 5 of Hawks series. 21 points, 7 assists, 2 steals, 1 block in Game 2 of Bucks series.

Danny Ainge: Playing the best ball of his career. 17 points, 5 rebounds, 5 steals, 4 assists in Game 1 of Hawks' series. 23 points, 5 rebounds, 2 steals, 2 assists in Game 3. Bucks' series was his best playoff set ever: Career high 10 rebounds in opener (playoff). 23 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists, 2 steals in Game 2. 12 points, 6 assists, 3 steals in Game 3. 25 points, 7 rebounds, 5 assists in clincher, in which he played 48 minutes.

Bill Walton: Captured 6th Man Award and was honored before Game 2 of Milwaukee series. Season high in minutes in clinching game of Bucks series (30) 9 points, 9 rebounds, 1 assist. 10 points, 4 rebounds Game 2 Hawks' series. Injured knee in that game and was forced to miss the remainder of the set, except for brief Game 5 stint (he scored 8 quick points to keep the pressure on). 15 points 11 rebounds (10 defensive), 3 assists in Game 1 of Milwaukee series.

Jerry Sichting: Struggled a bit but played strong in latter stages of Milwaukee series. 2 points, 3 assists in 3-guard offense in Game 4 of Bucks series. Had contributed 8 assists in that series' opener. Strong effort in Game 3 of Hawks' series, scoring 2 points with 4 assists and 2 rebounds in critical win.

Scott Wedman: At press time, status doubtful because of fractured ribs suffered in Game 3 of Milwaukee series. Playing time had been limited recently because of Bird. 11 points

(2-2 3-Pt FG), 2 rebounds, 1 block in Game 4 Hawks' series. 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals in clincher of Atlanta series. 11 points, 3 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal, 1 block in Game 1 of Milwaukee series, 4 points, 2 assists, 1 steal in Game 2. His value will be seen if team is forced to improvise around his absence.

David Thirdkill: First (game-on-the-line) time in three months in Game 4 of Bucks series. Played well, if that aforementioned layoff is considered: 4 minutes, 1 rebound, hustling defense against Moncrief. 6 points, 1 rebound in 8 minutes Game 5 Atlanta series; 6 points, 2 rebounds, 1 assist vs. Bucks, Game 1.

Greg Kite: Career playoff high in Game 1 against Bucks highlighted one of best games. 8 points, 6 rebounds, 3 blocks in 17 minutes. 3 points 1 rebound, 1 assist in Game 5 of Hawks' series.

Rick Carlisle: Like Kite, scored career high in playoffs in Game 1 of Bucks' series: 6 points, and added 1 rebound, 1 assist, and 1 steal. Playing time had decreased until the injury to Wedman; played well in relief role in Game 5 of Atlanta series: 2 points, 3 rebounds 1 assist in 11 minutes.

Sam Vincent: Vincent also scored career playoff high: in Game 5 of Atlanta series, he scored 8, and added 2 assists. Following stint was against Bucks in that set's Game 1: 6 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists in 9 minutes. Also used to take foul in strategic situation by Coach Jones.

Continued from Page 24

Complete Player or Not?

Ryan, writer for The Boston Globe. "Look at what he did in his 63 point game. He came close—but still, one man did not defeat five."

How important is the complete player, opposed to the best big man available? Bias will certainly be available if the Celtics remain 2nd (A trade is possible). But history reveals Auerbach's preference for the Center-Power Forward type. In 1980, Ryan wrote of a possible dream combination of Griffith and Larry Bird. Auerbach and Bill Fitch traded the opportunity, moving from 1st to 3rd in the draft, and taking Kevin McHale and Robert Parish (through the trade). Jordan's college team dominated Ralph Sampson's Virginia team, but the Rockets have gone farther in the playoffs, and Fitch selected Akeem Olajuwon over Michael with the same option (And Portland chose Sam Bowie. Jordan was taken 3rd by the Bulls). If the history is disclosed completely, it reflects Thompson's tragic demise—from pro Player of the Year (though not team champion) and the outstanding collegiate, to the actual poorhouse. Seemingly a classic example of Auerbach's argument; he failed to continue working.

Players like Bias and Michael Jordan are franchise players, says Bucks' assistant Mike Schuler. "It depends on a team's needs. Waymon Tisdale goes to Indiana, and has playing time and makes an impact. Sam Vincent comes to Boston, plays

rarely, and the jury's out. There are no Patrick Ewings in this draft. When you hear people talk about Brad Daugherty, it's in terms of a 'safe 1st pick.' But not a franchise."

One must not be trapped by watching the art of the game, especially if he is a pro scout. "If you find any positive feature about a player, and you're drafting high, you investigate," says St. Jean. His game. His character. How he fits on your team, depending on your roster. With a high pick, you CAN'T miss on the choice."

The crux of the issue: will the Celtics draft Bias? He stood out in the Rookie Camp last summer and if Red Auerbach could have the choice at that time, he likely would have said yes. A basketball season passes. Parish and Walton are not old, but elderly. Olajuwon, Sampson, Kevin Willis, Sam Bowie, Daugherty, William Bedford, and Chris Washburn turn in very impressive seasons; all are young, tall, powerful, and quick. For a man who has won fistfults and fistfults of championships with big men, and when looking ahead, the number two choice and an impressive Center/Power Forward type seem to be the perfect match.

Unless Bias is the perfect player for the Celtics; a fully developed player who fits the Celtics' needs at this time. Tall and talented enough to spell Bird and swing to the backcourt. Exciting and inspirational enough to lift the team coming in off the bench.

Draftee Will Need to Understand His Role

Armed with the second overall pick in the upcoming NBA draft, there's no question the Celtics will get an "impact" player, be he Chris Washburn, Brad Daugherty, Len Bias or William Bedford. But how much of an impact the draftee will make on the Celtics in his rookie season is questionable.

Since Bill Walton and Robert Parish, both centers, are over 30, it would be logical to assume the Celtics would take a big man.

"We consider the first four (Daugherty, Washburn, Bias and Bedford) to be the elite among the elite," Celtics general manager Jan Volk said.

"The last Celtics rookie to step right in and see plenty of minutes immediately was Kevin McHale. That probably won't happen in this draft—the new Celtic will probably take on Sam Vincent's role of learning the tricks of the NBA trade from a seat to the bench. One thing Boston will check out before choosing that second pick is how well he'll handle spending most of his time on the pine.

"You want a guy who understands what his role is," Volk says. "But you don't want a guy who is content not playing."

It would probably behoove the new Celtic to spend as much time as possible with Vincent. The guard from Michigan State was Boston's

top pick a year ago and hailed by many as "steal of the draft", but he played in 57 games, averaging 7.6 minutes an outing and 3.2 points a game. No matter how great your character is, that's got to be a come-down for a guy who was a star in college.

"The justification is there for him to want to play more than me at the 20th pick," Vincent says. "But personally, competitiveness is all in the heart and it doesn't make any difference what number you're at. You're used to being the man, the star of that team."

And how is Vincent dealing with things now that this is no longer the case with him?

"It definitely hurt for a while," Vincent says. "There's always days where you come in and try to play hard and you just sit back and say, 'Shoot'. Then there are days when you come in and say, 'I'm with the greatest squad. I'm having an opportunity to be brought around slowly. I'm going to be here, hopefully, for a while. And so you have to put everything in perspective."

Does Vincent have any words of wisdom for this Celtic-to-be?

"It's going to be tough," Vincent says. "He may want to ask questions from time to time and if he does I'll definitely be there to offer my advice. Hopefully, I'll be playing more next year so I'll be able to feel for what he's going through."

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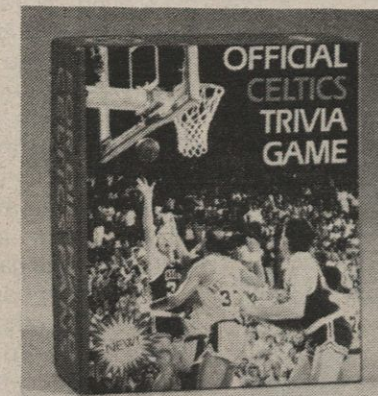


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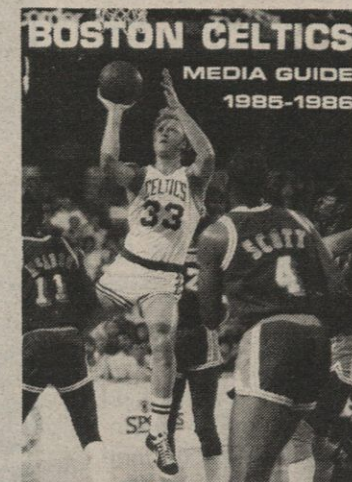


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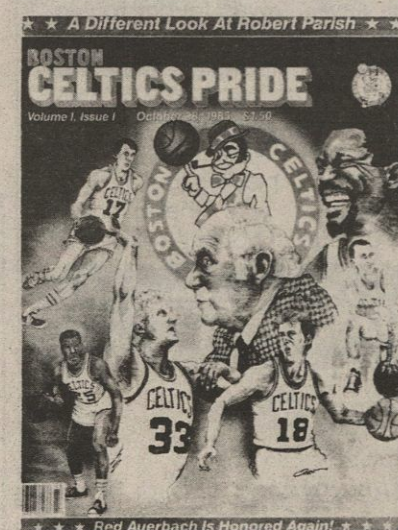
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Celtics Greats

"Pistol" Pete Maravich



Pete Maravich: No more emptiness.

During his heyday, "Pistol" Pete Maravich was one of the flashiest performers ever to grace college or professional basketball. He could shoot the ball from anywhere on the court (and usually did) and was capable of making fancy passes and putting on dribbling exhibitions that made opponents heads spin. His floppy socks were his trademark.

The best way to describe Maravich's three-year varsity career at Louisiana State (from 1967-68 to 1969-70) is unbelievable. He averaged 44.2 points a game during that span and set the following NCAA career records: most points, highest scoring average, most games scoring at least 50 points (28), most field goals made, most field goals attempted, most free throws made and most free throws attempted in a three year career.

NCAA season records: Most points, highest scoring average, most games scoring at least 50 points (10 in 1970), most field goals made and attempted. Maravich also holds the record from most free throws made in a game, 30 against Oregon State in 1969.

From LSU, Maravich was the third pick in the 1970 draft, the top selection of the Atlanta Hawks. Although he was a five-time all-star and led the league in scoring in 1977, Maravich never did achieve the lofty status in the NBA that he did in college. Much of that was due to his being on weak teams.

That changed midway through the 1979-80 season. Maravich, who had been traded to the then New Orleans Jazz in 1979, was waived by the team in mid-January. He was then picked up by the Boston Celtics.

Maravich retired following that season, and has all but disappeared from the limelight.

As flashy as Maravich was during the old days is the degree that he has settled down at present. Maravich currently lives in Lovington, La., north of New Orleans, and spends much of the time with his family. He became a born-again Christian some three years ago, and that has become the focus of his life.

"Despite the amount of success I had in my life, there was a great sense of emptiness," Maravich says. "That success didn't make me happy. I realized there was more to life than this worldliness and God changed my life. God had changed my life."

Maravich has parlayed his religious beliefs into his basketball camps which will be run in Clearwater, Fla. Atlanta and Houston this summer... The Maravich camps teach boys and girls as much about lifestyle as they do about basketball.

all-around game. Shooting, passing, ballhandling, dribbling.

"Many kids today don't understand the game—even in the NBA (many) players don't understand the intricacies of the game. I teach the kids that—they can fit into any offense by the time the camp is over. They gather a lot more information to enhance their game."

Maravich says the camp doesn't advertise, rather all the students come via word of mouth. He said some 140 boys and girls will be at the main camp in Clearwater this summer, which is about all he wants to handle.

"It's been successful," Maravich says. "Not monetarily, but I'm not in it for that. It's been successful for the kids."

Maravich, who played 10 seasons in the NBA and wound up with a career scoring average of 24.2 points a night, was asked to reflect on his NBA career, indeed, it wasn't as prolific as it could have or should have been, but the 37-year-old Maravich has no regrets.

"I learned on both sides, through adversity and positive things," Maravich says. "I was taught to win, win, win and I wasn't on a winning team. I took it personally—that's not good. Kids should be taught to have fun, number one and that they don't lose any game. Basketball is a team sport. It takes 11 players to play."

"My career was there and I played 10 years. I could have played

longer, but I was going through different aspects of life. The kind of life I'm living now is what I want the rest of my life. The position I want to be in is where I want to be the rest of my life."

Maravich only played a handful of games for the Celtics during the 1979-80 season, as well as nine playoff games. Still, his days with Boston are the fondest of his NBA memories.

"I wished I could have played for the Celtics in 1970 (the start of his pro career) Maravich said. "They played my type of basketball, I enjoyed that immensely. The players they had were of tremendous caliber and intelligence. Any player who went there knew there is great tradition and that would enhance their own game."

"I could have played 20 years with the Celtics."

Maravich despite his limited time with Boston, was invited to be a part of last year's Red Auerbach weekend.

"I appreciated the opportunity to come up," Maravich says. "I've always respected Red. "Those things don't mean much to me anymore—I've got plaques and trophies and awards to fill up three rooms. All they do is collect dust in the attic. But it's nice to see someone else get credit for what he deserves."

And Maravich deserves the reputation he owns, as one of the greatest offensive guards to ever play the game.

CLASSIFIED

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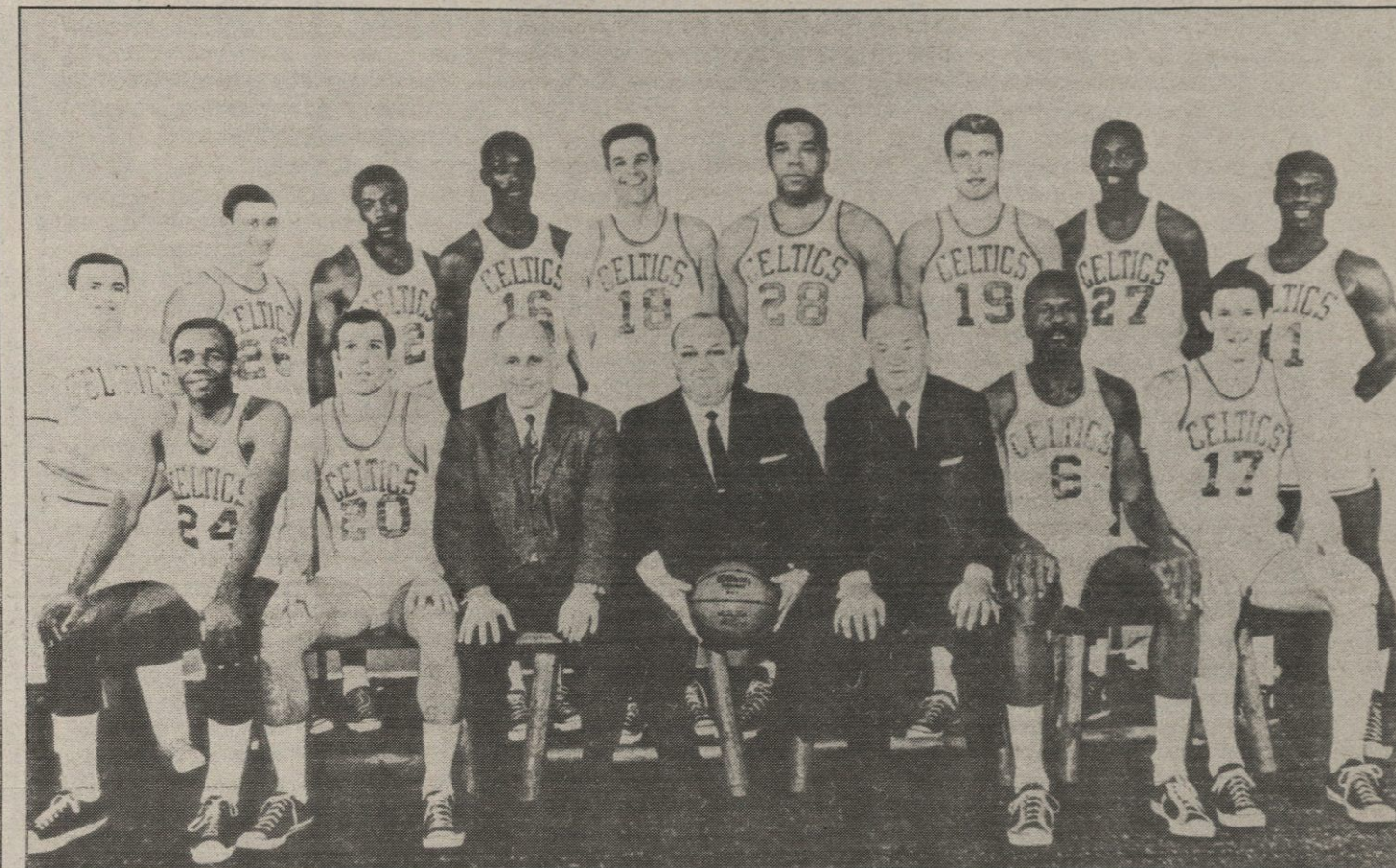
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Past and Present

Celtics Classics

1967-68 Celtics

A Team on a Mission



1967-68 Celtics: No more questions!

The 1967-68 Celtics were a team on a mission. They had been 86ed from the championship series the previous year by Wilt Chamberlain and the Philadelphia 76ers, and losing a title series was something virtually foreign to this team and its followers.

"Over and over that summer, people kept asking us what happened," John Havlicek said. "It became very old after a while, and I got sick and tired of hearing it. "I think every player on the team came to training camp determined that we weren't going to listen to that again the following summer."

And so it was.

But this edition of the green-and-whites would have to make do without defensive ace K.C. Jones, who had retired following the '66-67 season. No problem. All player-coach Bill Russell had to do was insert sixth man deluxe Havlicek in the starting lineup, and the team was set.

There were other questions, though. Veterans Russell, Sam Jones and Bailey Howell had been around a while, and doubts about their age began to crop up. Even Tom Sanders was nearing 30.

"We believed we still had more to give," Sam Jones said. "We had Russell and he was the savior. As long as he stayed healthy, I never worried about us winning."

Winning was no problem for the Celtics during the first 32 games of the season, as they won 25 of them. However, Boston did return to sanity the remainder of the year, winning 29 of the next 50. The result was a rather respectable 54-28, but that put the Celtics eight games behind the 76ers, who were trying to make it two titles in a row.

The opening-round playoff date between the Celtics and Detroit Pistons was no run-filled affair for the Celtics. Detroit was led by sharp-shooting rookie Dave Bing, who paced the NBA with a 27.1 scoring average during the regular season. The Celtics won the opener of the set easily, but found themselves in deep trouble when they lost the next two games. That expunged their home court advantage.

Undaunted, the Celtics bounded back to throw the Piston machinery out of kilter. Havlicek averaged 28 points a night in those three games to eliminate Detroit.

Shortly after the victory, the Celtics found out the Sixers had won their Eastern Conference semi-final, setting up another rumble between Philly and Boston.

"Now," Russell said. "It's going to be different."

For a while, it didn't look that way.

The Celtics got off to a good start, winning the series opener at the Spectrum, 127-118. Havlicek had 35 points, Jones 28 and Howell 24. That game was played the night after Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. The remainder of the series was to be postponed five days.

The rest did the 76ers a lot of good. They came back to whip Boston the next three games, and the Russell vow of not losing, had the appearance of an empty promise. The Celtics had history against them, since no NBA team had ever been down in a seven-game series, 3-games-to-1 and come back to win. Not only that, two of the games were scheduled in Philadelphia and the Celtics were an aging unit of basketballers.

"Before the next game," reserve Wayne Embry said. "John Havlicek and I walked into the lockerroom and wrote PRIDE on the blackboard in great big letters."

Junior high school stuff? Maybe, but it delivered a message to the other players, and the Celtics were off and running.

Boston clobbered the Sixers on their own floor, winning 122-104 in game five. Havlicek continued his

brilliant play with 29 points and 10 assists.

"I don't want this season to end," Havlicek said. "In a game like this, if all your guts fall out you just pick them up, stuff them back and keep going."

Which is exactly what the Celtics did.

They won game six, then polished off their revenge of last year's loss to Philadelphia with a 100-96 triumph at the Spectrum. So much for the Sixers.

"They deserved to win -- they were tougher," Chamberlain said. Not only were the Celtics tougher, they executed better, too.

"What happened was this," Sanders said. "When we got behind in that series, we had to sit down and see what had worked against Philadelphia in the past, then go with it. The answer was the pick and roll, and we stuck with it. It became our bread-and-butter play. They just couldn't stop it, so we ran it to death."

"It forced Wilt into a switching situation, which he sort of refused. And when he did switch, he had problems with Sam and Havlicek. We kept running it again and again. Philadelphia just couldn't deal with it."

I'll always remember that series, because it made me appreciate one of the most simple and effective plays

in basketball. Our comeback from the deficit was a very disciplined presentation of basketball."

While the Celtics were understandably on Cloud 9 after knocking out the Sixers there was still more business at hand.

"Yes, this is the most satisfying victory of my career--so far," Russell said. But we haven't won anything until we win the championship."

To do that, the Celtics had to beat the Los Angeles Lakers. No easy task, considering the Lakers had plenty of heavy-duty weaponry with Elgin Baylor, Jerry West and Gail Goodrich and had breezed through the playoffs, winning eight of nine games. Six days of rest were also operating in the Lakers favor.

The Celtics opened matters with a 107-101 win over the Lakers at Boston Garden, but the Lakers came back to win game two, 123-113. The series moved West, and the Celtics won the third game by eight and the Lakers won game four by 14.

In game five, the Celtics squeezed out a 120-117 overtime win. Boston then wiped out Los Angeles on its own home floor in the ensuing game 124-109, to win the NBA title.

Mission accomplished.



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